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SPECIAL REPORT, PAGE 23

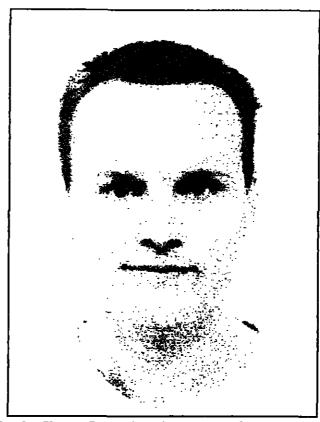
Hirstamong Mick Hucknall equals: The answers your Brit Art sale FRONT QUESTIONS PAGE 8

INTHE WEDNESDAY REVIEW + FASHION

Bungled rescue may have led to beheading of British hostages









The kidnapped engineers who are believed to have been killed in Chechnya: Rudolf Petschi (left), from Devon, Stanley Shaw, a Surrey-based New Zealander, Darren Hickey, from Surrey, and Peter Kennedy, from Hereford

THE DECAPITATED remains of By Andrew Buncombe four men, almost certainly the communication engineers kidnapped two months ago in ocal security forces had bungled a rescue attempt just

hours earlier British officials in Moscow were last night trying to to justice those who committed arrange for a positive identification of the remains, discovered early yesterday morning has learnt that in recent on a windswept roadside in a village on Chechnya's eastern border. The four men were kid- the hostages' families, handed napped in the capital city, zny, while working in the is wess former Soviet republic, against strong advice from the

Yesterday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, pledged that chechnya, were discovered he would do everything he sterday amid reports that could to find out what had happened. "We will work hard to find the truth," he said. "We need to know what happened and what is being done to bring such repugnant murders."

However, The Independent months the Foreign Office (FCO) had, with the approval of over day-to-day running of efforts to secure the release of the men to Granger Telecom, the company employing three of the engineers. It, in turn, had

hired specialist security consultant Control Risks for advice about securing the release. Last night, Control Risks refused to comment on its involvement in efforts at a rescue.

The four engineers: Darren Kennedy, 46, of Hereford: Rudolf Petschi, 42, of Devon and Surrey-based New Zealander Stanley Shaw, 58, had been working in Chechnya to install satellite and mobile phone links to a country whose infrastruc- a deal worth a reported £190m. ture had been destroyed by war.

At the time of the kidnap, both Granger and British Telecommunications - which was employing Mr Kennedy in Chechnya, a country the FCO

Two months of silence from the land of

kidnappings and Kalashnikovs Countdown to the killings

Granger, Raymond Verth, said it was a "risk worth taking" for

In a statement issued yesterday, Mr Verth said: "We are devastated to hear the news of the deaths of the four hostages. Their murder is an appalling defended the decision to work and barbaric act... We were especially shocked by this hor-rity forces. Mr Verth said they in a rescue attempt.

"strongly advises against" trav- rific news as we were making elling to. The chief executive of every effort to secure the safe release of the hostages. We had opened a dialogue with the kidnappers and received confirmation that the hostages were

alive as recently as last week." Attention turned last night to reports that the men may have been killed after a bungled res-

were not aware in advance of any rescue attempt, although reports from Grozny on Monday claimed that the security forces knew where the hostages were.

An official source in Grozny one knows why the men were executed. It is certainly a new development because hostagetakers here have not done this before. There are reports that the security forces had tried to rescue the men but... no one is saying anything."

A further report from Grozny last night suggested that one kidnapper had been captured. Official sources said cue attempt by Chechen secu- Britain had not been involved

In Britain, as news of the disthe victims were said to be numb with grief. Eamonn Hickey, father of Mr Hickey, reacted to early unconfirmed reports that four bodies had been found by saying he was "hoping and

praying" that they turned out to

be baseless rumour. As more details emerged a family friend, speaking at the of the world but clearly bepub run by the Hickeys in yond the control of Russia. Thames Ditton, Surrey, said: "They are unable to say anything. Like everyone else involved they are in a state of

Yesterday, as officials in the guilty men later today, the President, Aslan Maskhadov,

blamed "foreign special forces" covery emerged, the families of and their Chechen agents for carrying out the killings. He said the aim was to provoke more violence and hinder his attempts to build relations abroad.

As the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, called for tougher security, speculation also turned to the future of a country not recognised by the rest

The kidnap of the four men came just two weeks after British aid workers Jon James, 40, and Camilla Carr, 38, were released after being held hostage in Chechnya for 18 months. Chechnya promised to name Around 100 people are believed to be held in the country, most of them Russian servicemen.

IT's mad to ignore

LONG DISTANCE

CALLS THAT ARE

UP TO 4 times

cheaper.

'I saw the heads lined up on a piece of cloth'

dards of Chechnya, the sight that confronted the man early yesterday morning on a remote village road was a medieval one.

The severed heads of four nen had been left on the verge, the identification documents of their owners carefully placed

They were found by an unly clear who they were.

Rusian Musayev, a reporter for the Associated Press who

in Moscow

named motorist, less than 50 miles from the capital city. Grozny and it was immediate-

also witnessed the ghoulish

scene, said: "I saw the heads neatly lined up beside the highway. They were lined up on a piece of cloth in plain view of

passers by.

wounds to the temple, possibly gunshot wounds," he said. Chechen fighters prevented

journalists from filming the

the village of Dovydenko.

"It appeared that somebody had brought them and dropped them by the roadside for all to "Two of the heads had see," the motorist told a correspondent for Russia's independent NTV channel.

Within an hour of the find, Umar Makhauri, who had been scene on the deserted road be- one of the engineers' body-

"our British colleagues" had

In their letter, Mr Schröder

and Mr Chirac called for "fixed

and verifiable targets" to cut un-

employment. This could be

highly problematic for Britain,

which opposes targets for reducing the jobless totals.

Other controversial issues

raised include a move towards

green taxes. The letter argues:

"It is desirable to ease taxes on

labour and strengthen the eco-

"harmonisation".

and recognised the faces of the dead men.

He was certain that they were Peter Kennedy, Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi and Stanley Shaw.

Last night the victims' heads were said to have been taken to Grozny morgue. No bodies were found by afraid to approach.

tween barren wintry fields near guards, came to the roadside the roadside, although the Chechen leader, Aslan Maskhadov, said later that the corpses had been found elsewhere. The testimony of the unnamed driver was relayed by an NTV correspondent, Said Tsarnayev, who said that Chechen gunmen then closed the roads in the area, and people were too

Schroder and Chirac pile Robinson is the pressure on Blair

newed pressure over Europe Tast night as France and Germany called for a reduction of the veto in European decisionmaking, new targets for cutting unemployment and a push for

economic co-ordination. In a joint letter, France and Germany proposed a controversial agenda for this weekend's summit of European Union leaders in Vienna, dashing British hopes of avoiding a debate on further integration. They also appeared to attack the special rebate on Britain's contributions to EU funds.

TONY BLAIR was under re- By Stephen Castle, IMRE KARACS AND ANDREW GRICE

> The letter raised the prospect of a direct confrontation between Mr Blair and European heads of government, after recent friction over tax harmonisation and suggestions that individual member states should lose their veto over tax

That ambition remained alive in last night's letter from Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, and Jacques Chirac, the French President, ing about EU reform. They brucken, he suggested that said an "extension of decisions taken by qualified majority is of asked him not to use the word vital importance". Although France and Ger-

many avoided the term "tax harmonisation", the joint letter called for a "programme in the area of social and tax policies. aimed especially at avoiding unfair tax practices and wage Oskar Lafontaine, the Ger-

man Finance Minister, called yesterday for "co-ordination" of tax policies throughout the EU. In a speech to a Social Demo- logical aspects of tax policy

'ready to go'

isterial future looked increasingly uncertain last night as the embattled Paymaster-General faced renewed criticism about his performance. Rumours were circulating that Mr Robinson might quietly re-

sign over the Christmas break,

citing ill-health as a reason. An air of farce existed as Treasury spokesmen were forced to rebut suggestions that the minister had advertised his services in Yellow Pages as a political consultant. The insert turned out to vading sense that Mr Robinson

Westminster Correspondent

could not survive. Some sources suggested the minister's performance at the Treasury had been affected by publicity about his business interests.

A further report yesterday suggested Mr Robinson had been stripped of responsibilities on tax because of adverse publicity about his £12m offshore trust. He was forced to apologise to the House of Commons last month for failing to regisbe a mistake, but it added to a per-ter company directorships.

Troubles take toll, page 2

who called for bold new think- cratic Party rally in Saar- Europe-wide." INSIDE THE REVIEW INSIDE THIS SECTION

Transport costs John Prescott has lost his funding battle with the Chancellor Home P4

Double take Scientists may be on the verge of cloning humans

NF in trouble Internal strife threatens the heart of the National Front in France Foreign P13

About turn in US President Clinton may yet escape Senate trial Sport P28 Foreign P15

Zeneca merger talks Zeneca has entered into £40bn merger talks with Astra of Sweden Business P16

Out of Europe A troubled man Rangers have been Hague's party problems beaten by Parma are here to stay Comment P4

Our duty to animals Why Barry Horne is nearly right about animal welfare Comment P3

Venice menaced Anna Somers Cocks on why the lagoon barrier must be built Comment P5

Sparkling wit An Austro-Hungarian count's replica jewels Fashion P9 LETTERS 2, LEADERS & COMMENT 3-5, OBITUARIES 6-7, FEATURES 8, FASHION 9, ARTS & THEATRE 10-11, MIDWEEK MONEY 12, SECRETARIAL 13

Business shows How marketing can transform a musical into a blockbuster Theatre P11

Bank on your team Are football financial services a good idea? Midweek Money P12



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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'My husband died two years ago. Will I ever get used to being alone?'

#FILM: ANTHONY QUINN REVIEWS 'ZORRO' AND THE WEEK'S OTHER **NEW RELEASES EPLUS LAW**

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER

Troubles take toll on the 'missing minister'

offrey Robinson tucked into a hearty full English breakfast with business leaders yesterday. But a rueful note crept into Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet the Paymaster General's voice when the questions started.

Where would he advise a youngster to make a career - peared before a Commons business or politics? "Business," the minister replied. "Particularly in the light of the

Listening to the entrepreneur Alan Sugar's suggestions on how young people could follow in his footsteps, Mr Robinson might have been forgiven for wondering why he went into politics.

The last year has not been an easy one for the Paymaster General, to put it mildly. First for resignation. he was criticised for his interest in a £12 million offshore trust, then for not registering directorships and then again for his links with the disgraced tycoon Robert Maxwell.

Westminster Correspondent

Opposition MPs claimed enforcer, seemed reluctant to give unqualified support to his fellow minister when he apcommittee vesterday.

Mr Cunningham was pressed hard by members of the Public Administration Committee before giving Mr Robin-

son his backing.
"Friends" have begun to hint that the Paymaster General is ready to throw in the towel. Unnamed fellow ministers told newspapers at the weekend that he would cite health problems as his reason

The Paymaster General went into hospital last summer for an abdominal operation which was said at the time to be routine

the minister's illness might be more serious than had been

There were also claims that Mr Robinson's performance had been affected by bad pub-

One source said Treasury officials had been unhappy about the way the minister handled the launch of new Individual Savings Accounts, which was accompanied by criticism of a

£50,000 limit on the accounts. "He was told to extract the digit and get on with it in July last year But months later it was still in kit form. He had been very distracted by all this fuss," the source said.

The Conservatives have dubbed Mr Robinson "The Missing Minister," detailing six Treasury events in the House of Commons since October in which he has never spoken.

On the one occasion on which he spoke, on November

tion on productivity.

The opposition party says Mr Robinson did not even appear on the front bench for a debate on ISA regulations on Novem-

By contrast, his Treasury colleague Patricia Hewitt appeared four times in 24 hours. in the debate on ISAs, a standing committee on the EU budget, a debate on road haulage order on insurance contracting-out.

Last night the Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, tabled a Parliamentary ques-tion asking for details of Mr gagements. A Treasury spokeswoman

said that although he had not made any speeches in the past week, neither had the Financial Secretary, Dawn Primarolo. Last Monday, Mr Robinson sited Cambridge to talk about

YESTERDAY

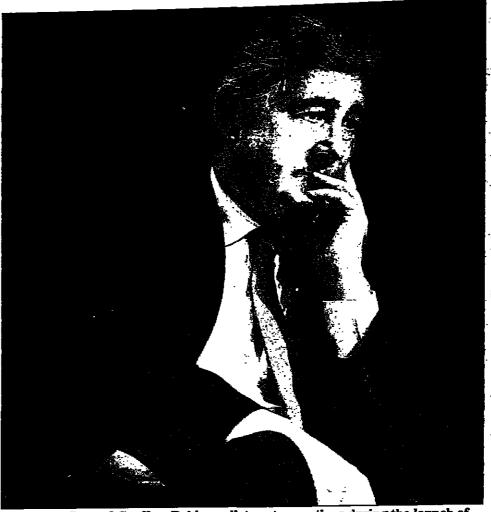
office for meetings. On Tuesday, he appeared in the House of Commons for the Queen's Speech debate on the economy but did not speak. On Wednes day, he was at the Treasury and on Thursday he judged a schools' painting competition in

in his constituency On Monday this week, Mr Robinson was back in Camindustry taxation and an bridge again for another meetproductivity, accompanied by Mr Sugar. However, journalists' probing was not welcomed.

Coventry. On Friday, too, he was

The Business Editor of the Cambridge Evening News. Robinson's recent public en- Jenny Chapman, said not a word was uttered about Mr Robinson's troubles.

"I was going to ask whether he was feeling better," she said. "But as soon as I started to introduce the topic they said I couldn't ask him any ques-



Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson listens to questions during the launch of the "You Can Do It" tour in London

General situation Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and showers this morning, but it will turn increasingly overcast and windy this afternoon with rain threatening the extreme west. Eastern Scotland will be dry and bright after a cold start. England and Wales will start rather doudy with showery rain in eastern and south-eastern areas. However, drier and brighter weather will spread from the west. leaving most places with reasonable sunny spells this afternoon, although coastal showers are possible in Wales and northwest England.

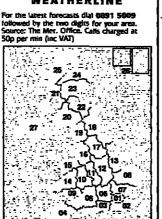
SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Any early fog and local ground frost will lift to leave a mostly dry day with sunny intervals and only iso lated showers. A freshening southerly wind. Max temp 5-8C (41–46F).

TRAVEL

London: A41 Finchiey Rd, From Swiss at Cottage to Forture Green. Major works at Finchiey Rd Gyratov, Unit 31 December. Cambridgeshitre A1 between Alconbury Buckinghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 (Wycombe East). Three nar-row lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999. Bristol: M5 J16-19. Major Floadworks on Avormouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. Norfolic: A47 Hardwick Floundahout, Kings Lynn (A10). Floadworks between the pullover

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A RUSSIAN nuclear-powered ice breaking ship has been forced to call in a helicopter to find a way through ice more than 20 metres thick-after it became ensnared while helping a supply ship make its way to the Arctic port of Pevek The Russian port of Pevek is one of the most isolated cor-

ships for survival.

EUROPE NOON TODAY THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Ahern and Blair move to end stalemate

TONY BLAIR and Bertie Ahern BY ALAN MURDOCH will make renewed efforts today in Dublin to unlock the stalemate in the IRA decommissioning gesture

appeared to have been dashed. Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said he could not confirm Dublin reports attributed to security sources that a meeting of up to 70 senior IRA members in Cavan last Saturday had cleared the way for members to approve a symbolic destruction of Semtex explosive to overcome Unionist conditions blocking Sinn Fein's entry into a Northern Ireland executive and a role in cross-border bodies.

Mr Ahern said "I believe there was a meeting somewhere over the weekend but I have no information on what the conclusion of that was. I'm an enormous optimistic but I've nothing to make me optimistic at the moment."

He said last week's breakdown of the arrangements over cross-border implementation bodies meant "we have lost about two months, and we haven't moved an inch in four weeks." Mr Ahern will discuss the continuing impasse with Mr Blair at the European Council meeting in Vienna on Friday and Saturday.

In London Ulster Unionist Party deputy leader John Taylor declared parties were "within an ace" of agreement on a Northern Ireland Executive and cross-border bodies after meeting Tony Blair. He said an roadside near the city.

Northern Ireland peace process

Executive deal would exclude IRA decommissioning first.

Before meeting Taoiseach, deputy first minister Seamus Mallon urged Mr Taylor to act, if as claimed, he had. been delegated the job of negotiating by UUP leader and first minister David Trimble, Ma-Ahern and Irish Government officials met Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator at Stormont and its liaison officer with the de Chastelain decommissioning body.

Mr McGuinness insisted Sinn Fein had "fulfilled to the letter" all its obligations under the Good Friday Agreement.

Mr Ahern said he was more optimistic of progress on identifying burial places of IRA victims than on decommissioning. Republican sources have strongly denied reports of an imminent arms disposal ges-

■ A 42 year-old man was still being questioned last night by detectives in Dundalk following the discovery of an assault rifle, a recently-fired semi-automatic pistol, three timer power units and other bomb parts in a house in the border town on Monday.

Gardai in Limerick appealed for information after plastic bags containing 3,000 rounds of ammunition for high-powered rifles were discovered at a

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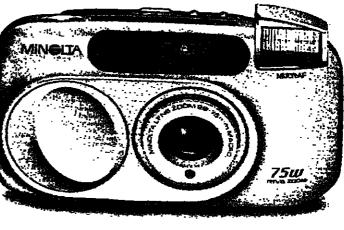
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Two months of silence from land of kidnapping, chaos and Kalashnikovs



AT 11.39am local time the news BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE broke at the British Embassy on Sofiiskaya Naberezhnaya in central Moscow.

The report, from the Reuters news agency, was as stark as it was lacking in detail; three bodies had been found in Chechnya, 40 miles from the capital Grozny, and it was believed they were those of the British hostages.

Within moments, the report, and others that corrected the number of bodies to four, were passed directly to the ambassador Sir Andrew Wood, who was working in his office.

Staff in the embassy, sited opposite the Kremlin, frantically tried to verify the reports. "We take all the reports we get seriously. Of course there had been many reports and rumours and the most important thing was to try and establish some facts," said an

"We started getting on to our contacts to find out what we

The tragedy that emerged yesterday started two months earlier in Lermontovo Street, a nondescript thoroughfare in central Grozny, capital of the lawless Muslim republic of Chechnya.

At around 4am on Sunday 4 October around 20 men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles stormed a small

Grozny is one of the most but the three Britons and one market". New Zealander staying there setting up telecommunication ing, protected as they were by

six specially hired bodyguards. But only one of the hired guns fought back, injuring one of the kidnappers. The sound of what was obviously a gun battle was ignored by the Chechen security forces whose headprters were only 500 yards

Kennedy and the New Zealander Stanley Shaw apparently knew the risks of working in

AND HELEN WOMACK in Moscow

Kidnapping for ransom, brutal massacres and beheadings used to be common all over medieval Europe. In the mountainous Caucasus region of Chechnya, where banditry is the rule rather than the exception, hostage taking and murder is still a way of life.

The Foreign Office considers it too dangerous to station any staff there. Since the beginning of this year alone. 176 people, many of them ethnic Russians. have been kidnapped in the

The Chechens, a Muslim nation whose forefathers abducted their Russian conquerors in the 19th century, have used kidnapping to punish those they perceived as invaders in the recent war for

Often the Chechen kidnappers are common criminals. On Man in the Mask, a Russian television show that allows guests to hide their faces while speaking on sensitive subjects, a "middle-man" recently described an elaborate racket whereby the Russian mafia pays ransoms to Chechen kidnappers, splits the profits and keeps the business going.

Although much human misery was involved, the trade cause "that's market economdangerous places in the world, ics for you and this is a major

Raymond Verth, chief executive of Granger Telecom, the links should have been able to firm for which three of the men sleep safely that Sunday morn- worked, said they had volunteered to go. "We undertook the contract

with that knowledge [about the lack of security] and considered the risks were worth the effort,"



Chechen guerrillas posing with a wolf - symbol of liberty and independence- at the gates of the presidential palace in Grozny, Chechnya

Chechnya several times a year Street, London, had been workand was earning between £20,000 and £25,000.

Mr Kennedy, a self-employed engineer employed by British Telecom, was on a 12-day

Immediately after their kidnap there was silence; there were no demands from the kidnappers, and little emerged from the Foreign Office or from the Chechen authorities.

The four engineers must have kept up their spirits with the thought that only a few weeks earlier, the British aid workers, Camilla Carr and Jon James, were released after 14 would continue, he said, be-months in captivity. "We would just tell the families to keep praving," said Alexandra Little, Ms Carr's sister-in-law.

Boris Berezovsky, the Russian media tycoon and politician former Soviet republics, provided an aircraft to fly the two aid workers from Chechnya to

But things were moving quickly behind the scenes. With-

manlike. It was the same later that day when officials met representatives from Granger Control Risks. and British Telecom and the

The FO was doing what it could, the families were told, but the British Government did not give in to blackmail. No ransom would be paid, should a demand be made.

To an extent, the FO was hampered by the status of Chechnya, a breakaway republic of Russia whose independence Britain does not recognise and where it has no

men's relatives.

In the first few days, the British Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Andrew Wood, was relying on brief faxes from the international monitoring group, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), one of the few Western organisations with staff still in

But it emerged yesterday that some sort of negotiations were going on. With the agree-

dangerous places in the world. Carr and Mr Jones said they The Foreign Office was aware that Granger was working with

Initially, it seemed progress had been made. In a statement issued yesterday, Raymond Verth said: "We were making every effort to secure the safe release of the hostages. We had opened a dialogue with the kidnappers and received confirmation that the hostages were alive as recently as last week.'

The Chechen authorities also claimed they were doing what they could and were questioning the injured kidnapper who was being treated at a hospital at Urus Martan, 20 miles south of Grozny.

were moved dozens of times before they were finally released. a tactic designed to avoid detection by the security forces. But the security forces may

have been closing in. There were reports from Grozny on Monday suggesting the forces knew where the kidnappers were. Indeed, there was speculation last night that the Chechens had launched a did backfire. rescue attempt that went dramatically wrong.

"We have heard these reports but there is no collateral to back them up," said a British source in Moscow last night. There is certainly no evidence that Britain was involved."

Smoked Salmon

steer away from an armed response. Officials were only too aware of the problems of trying to control the Chechen security forces who were supposed to be helping.

Mr Kennedy's local MP, Paul Keetch, yesterday said that any such rescue attempt would ave been "crazy". If there was an attempt at a

rescue, it certainly appears it Granger Telecom remain

convinced that it was making progress in securing the cap-As the British Embassy in

Moscow was last night still trying to co-ordinate a positive identification of the remains of British advice to the the men the greatest tragedy Exactly where the hostages Chechens would have been to may yet be that the men could were held is not known. Ms act with great caution and to soon have been coming home.

COUNTDOWN TO KILLINGS

20 September British aid workers Camilla Carr and Jon James fly home after being held in Chechnya for 14 months.

4 October The four victims are taken. Kidnappers and at least one of the Britons' bodyguards is injured in a gun battle. 5 October

Roy Verth, chief executive of the men's company, says he and his staff were aware of the dangers in Chechnya and took precautions. But ne "considered the risks were worth the effort of the contract" to install a cellular radio-telephone system.

14 October Visiting Poland, Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov tells the press he believes that he hopes they will

the hostages are alive and soon be released. 16 October Ruslan Aushev. President of

the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia, says the hostages lives are not at risk, and promises to do all he can to free them. 20 October

Some 14 Russian soldiers and a Turkish businessman held hostage in Chechnya are set free. 25 October

The Chechen government announces it is about to launch a maior offensive against kidnappers. On the day this offensive is due to be launched, a bomb detonates outside the antikidnapping unit's Grozny HQ. Its chief, Shaid Bargishev. 27, is fatally injured. 13 November

President Boris Yeltsin's envoy to Chechnya is released six months after being taken hostage there. 8 December

Chechen authorities say they have found the heads of the three Britons and опе New Zealander.

Half price smoked salmon... ment of the hostages' families, in 24 hours the Foreign Office he said. Granger Telecom took over At stake was a long-term had called a meeting of officials deal worth a reported £190m -a from various Whitehall departday-to-day control of moves to ments and other interested massive amount for the comtry to secure the release of the pany, based in Weybridge, bodies, including the foreign intelligence service MI6 and The Independent has learnt The Britons, Darren Hickey, Surrey. Contrary to some re-Rudolf Petschi and Peter ports that they were receiving the FO's specialist hostage unit. that to help them in their goal massive "danger money" pay-The mood at the meeting. the company employed Control Risks, a firm specialising in proments, the four men were not held the day after the kidnapping at the Foreign Office headviding security for businesses making a fortune. quarters, in King Charles working in some of the most Mr Hickey, 26, had been to Tesco Scottish

4500 £10:99 it confirmed is devastating' £5.49 believed to be being comfort-ed by friends and relatives generous bloke and always very polite. "I rang Louisa after I heard FOR NINE weeks, the near relyesterday. Mr Petschi's father, of the abduction to wish her well Johann, a retired quarry workand at that stage she was still hopeful. She said she was looker, was widowed earlier this ing forward to him being re-Rudi Petschi, 42, a former Royal Signals soldier, had leased and was planning a moved into a new house in Cullompton with his wife, mega party to welcome him Stan Shaw's wife, Lily, and Louisa, shortly before he flew their four-year-old daughter to Chechnya. A fluent Russian Foreign Office officials prepared them for bad news early had also left their family home speaker, he was contracted by Granger Telecom to act as an in New Haw, Surrey, yesterday. interpreter. Yellow ribbous had been tied around the bungalow and to Johann Petschi, father of Les Boyland, who became friends with Mr Petschi during trees on the main road outside. dead Rudi Deborah Hickey, sister of Mr Shaw, aged 58, was a New an 85-mile tandem bicycle ride thought for a minute that he around Devon to raise money Zealander. The fourth victim, Peter would be killed. We were told for charity, said: "I was looking knew it all along but to have it confirmed is devastating. God

...but hurry, it won't be around forever.

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I always knew, but having BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

atives of the four dead men had kept alive their hopes that somehow a safe return for the hostages might be possible. But early yesterday came the first intimations that, instead, their darkest fears were about to be realised.

in the day. Later they confirmed that it was almost certain their loved ones had died. 26-year-old Darren Hickey, said: "We are so shocked. I

Speaking outside the pub in Thames Ditton, Surrey, run by her parents, Eamonn and Moira, she said: "We never

knows what we are going to do

that it would be OK but after today I won't believe anything anymore. My mum and dad are

completely devastated." The wife and father of Rudi

for someone to help me raise money and he agreed.

"At the time, he was unemployed and looking for work - I think he must have taken that Petschi were away from their job in Chechnya shortly afterhomes in Devon, and were wards. He was a really nice and

Kennedy, 46, of Hereford, had been employed as a independent contractor by British Telecommunications to test a satellite telephone link from Chechnya. He was separated

BRITISH HOSTAGES KILLED ABROAD

Keith Mangan

and Paul Wells Kashmir, India, 1998: Muslim separatists responsible for the 1995 kidnapping of Mr Mangan and Mr Wells claim that they were executed in December of that year following pressure from the US government for their release, although the original kidnappers are all reported

to have been killed in clashes Mark Slater with the Indian army.

Christopher Howes Cambodia, March 1996: Khmer Rouge executed the mine-clearing expert despite payment (against the advice of the British government) of a £75,000 ransom by his employers, the Mines

Advisory Group charity.

Cambodia, September 1994: Khmer Rouge responsible for the death of Mr Slater. Negotiations over a £33,000 ransom broke down, and he was killed after his captors made political demands.

Dominic Chappell and

Chappell and Ms Dominy were executed by the Khmer Rouge after a ransom demand.

Peter Kessler Colombia, October 1992: Kidnapped by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. the businessman was killed during a Colombian army Cambodia, June 1994: Mr

⊘ 3 9 0 0

Cars: Prescott unveils plans to charge urban motorists, but loses battle to spend revenue exclusively on public transport

City drivers face tolls 'in 15 months'

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, has lost his battle with the Chancellor of the Exchequer over ploughing the money raised from charges on drivers back into public trans-

port, it was claimed yesterday. Not all the money raised by charging motorists to drive into urban centres will be used for local public transport schemes. The consultation document. published yesterday, revealed that some of the money raised would be returned to the Treasury and after 10 years the cash can be used

for non-transport schemes. The Government's plans call for a charge on driving into urban centres, parking at work and using trunk roads and motorways. Mr Prescott bailed the schemes as a "radical" approach and said the Govern- jam, said primary legislation

BY PHILIP THORNTON Transport Correspondent

ment deserved credit for the "unique" decision to allow all the money raised to be used for transport schemes - an idea known as hypothecation.

He said charging systems could be in place within 15 months and that £1bn could be raised annually.

"It's a ground-breaking financial agreement to give local authorities the means to tackle local traffic problems.

"Local authorities in approved pilot schemes will be able to keep all of the money raised to spend on worthwhile local transport improvements for at least 10 years."

But the consultation document, called Breaking the Log-

would include powers to require a "proportion of the revenue to be paid to central Government". The document also made clear that the legislation would "not restrict expenditure entirely to transport-related matters".

Both Mr Prescott and John Reid, the Transport Minister, said councils would retain 100 per cent of the revenue for at least 10 years, and that all the money would go into transport schemes. Dr Reid said the reference to expenditure on non-workplace parking such as at transport matters related to fresh legislation after 10 years.

The Conservatives said Mr Prescott had failed to deliver on his promises. Tory transport spokesman, Bernard Jenkin, said: "Mr Prescott has constantly claimed to have won the battle with the Treasury. However the document gives the lie

Unveiling the details of the document, Mr Prescott said the proposed charging regime was not compulsory.

The Government's view is that urban road-users should either be charged to enter a designated area or for keeping or driving a vehicle within a certain area. The plan calls for parking at offices, factories and warehouses to be charged but shopping centres.

The Freight Transport Association called on the Government to exclude lorries delivering to town centres. A

'You cannot deliver 10 tons of groceries using a basket on



Eco-warriors protesting against the building of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road being removed from their roof-top camp by bailiffs yesterday

too high.

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MPs attack car industry overcharging

BRITISH MOTORISTS are pay- BY PHILIP THORNTON ing too much for their cars compared with their European counterparts, according to a powerful cross-party committee

In a hard-hitting report, the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry raised the idea of imprisoning the heads of car manufacturers found guilty of anti-competitive behaviour "as a mark of public Commission as acceptable."

The MPs called on the Govfor the director-general of fair ernment to end the current extrading to levy a fine of 10 per emption from European cent of turnover for anti-comcompetition rules that allow petitive behaviour were an incar manufacturers to set up exsufficient deterrent. "If there is found to have been grossly clusive relationships with fran-

chised dealers. They said the Office of Fair it is our view that due consid-Trading (OFT), which is al- eration will have to be given as ready looking at claims that the to whether criminal penalties car industry operates a cartel. should be available as a detershould investigate whether the rent to such behaviour in future, Britain and the rest of the EU were a sign of anti-competitive

behaviour They also found: ■ The car market would be more competitive if there was less power in the hands of the manufacturers.

lowering prices in line with currency movements.

falsify evidence to the OFT,

They pointed to existing

powers to impose prison sen-

tences for those who destroy or

lic anger," the MPs said.

poor quality garage servicing.

■ Second-hand car prices are

Existing powers of competition regulators are "feeble".

The report said: "The cur-

rent price differentials between

the UK and other EU countries

are far beyond those formally

regarded by the European

It added that existing powers

anti-competitive behaviour...

saying this was a "measure if the seriousness with which Parliament views such behav-■ UK car importers may have iour". Martin O'Neill, the comdistorted competition by not mittee chairman, added: "We want to put the frighteners on the big corporations. They are British consumers suffer noted for their arrogance.

Gadget slows stolen vehicles

CAR THIEVES who career off at BY CLARE GARNER 90mph could soon be stopped by a device that reduces their speed to a level at which even a policeman on a bicycle can catch them.

The gadget, designed by the traffic information provider Trafficmaster, heralds the end of the car chase, as the stolen vehicle can travel no faster than 15mph. A unit in the engine is activated when the car is broken into. As it comes in range of one of Trafficmaster's 7,000 infra-red sensors across the country, the unit signals the

company's control centre. Op-

erators alert the owner and po-

lice. A transmission to the car implements a reduction in its speed by restricting the fuel. Terry Shurwood, the sales

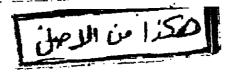
director at Trafficmaster, which plans to launch the system in April, said: "The advantage we have over other systems is that it offsets the need for a highspeed police car chase ... It would be interesting to see a policeman on a bicycle - a fit policeman perhaps - approaching a car when the car is reduced to 15mph." The device will cost £200, plus an annual subscrip-

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Human cloning may be tried next year

SCIENTISTS COULD try to cre- BY STEVE CONNOR 🏂 te the first human clones as early as next year after yesterday's approval for so-called "therapeutic cloning" by the Government's statutory watchdog on embryo research.

The technique promises to revolutionise medicine with effective treatments for genetic disorders, incurable illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, and certain forms of cancer, but its use is likely to unleash a wave of protest concerning its ethical implications.

The Human Fertilisation

Science Editor

netics Advisory Commission. has given its blessing to the creation of cloned human embryos to generate tissue for transplant

In the face of strong opposition from anti-abortion groups, the Government-appointed experts said that therapeutic cioning - where cells are harvested from a cloned embryo that is not allowed to survive for tilisation - is justified on the and Embryology Authority: in a grounds of the huge medical

provide. The joint report recshould explicitly ban reproductive cloning - where a cloned embryo is implanted into a womb and allowed to develop into a baby - to allay public fears over the creation of cloned adult replicas.

Sir Colin Campbell, chairman of the advisory commission, said: "It is quite clear that human reproductive cloning is unacceptable to a substantial majority of the poplonger than 14 days after fer- ulation. A total ban on its use for any purpose is the obvious and straightforward way of

Ruth Deech, chairman of recommendations to include ommends that the Government the embryology authority and a law lecturer at Oxford University, emphasised that existing regulations on human embryo research make it illegal to carry out cloning but she said an "explicit ban" by the Government is desirable before it allows therapeutic cloning.

"We are suggesting to the Government that this may be a wise thing to do," she said, "in order that the prohibition is enshrined in law rather than it relying on the decision of a statutory body."

will consider the authority's genetically identical.

two extra categories of research to the existing five alunder legislation,

This will allow embryos to be cloned to extract the important thought within a year." she said embryonic "stem cells" that can be grown in the laboratory into any one of the hundreds of different tissue types of the

Such a procedure would generate virtually unlimited supplies of tissue for transplanting into a patient, who would not suffer tissue rejection because The Department of Health the transplants would be

Anne McLaren, a distinguished embryologist and member of the authority, said she would not be surprised if an application for human cloning was made in 1999. "I'd have

vesterday.

Austin Smith, director of the Centre for Genome Research at Edinburgh University, is likely to be the first scientist to apply for approval to be the first to create a cloned embryo for tissue transplants.

Dr Smith, who is collaborating with the scientists from who cloned Dolly the sheep, has

his proposal to the HFEA and perts received about 200 reis confident he will be given the official go-ahead soon. Harry Griffin, assistant

director of science at the Roslin Institute, welcomed the authority's recommendations: "We particularly welcome the proposal to extend the purposes for which embryo research can be carried out to include the development of new

The joint report resulted from a consultation exercise the nearby Roslin Institute that began last January when people were invited to submit

or organs," he said.

treatment of damaged tissues

already submitted an outline of their views on cloning. The exsponses, of which about 40 per cent came from members of the public, with the rest coming from academics, religious groups, ethicists, lawyers and industry.

> The report says that 80 per cent of those who responded were opposed to reproductive cloning and 23 per cent were against any form of embryo research or manipulation, arguing that the embryo possesses the full moral status of a human

> > Leading article. Review, page 3

Journalist Winchell tried to set ³ up Sinatra, FBI reveals

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York

IF THERE were any doubts that the life of Frank Sinatra had a murky side, the FBI put them to rest yesterday.

Answering requests from media organisations lodged under the Freedom of Information Act, it released some 1,200 pages of documents about the crooner, spanning several decades.

The compendium, a 10inthick doorstop of fading and heavily annotated papers, reveals a hodgepodge of claims and counter-claims about the singer who died in May this

They range from allegations that Sinatra - whose nicknames included Ol' Blue Eves and the Chairman of the Board -dodged the draft during the Second World War to details of death threats that

There did not appear to be any single bombshell, however, that might stain the legend of Sinatra, who remains one of the foremost icons of American pop and entertainment.

For most of his life the New Jersey-born performer fought innuendo and rumour - and FBI investigation - arising om his involvement in the high-rolling casino world of





The entertainment columnist Walter Winchell (left), who made baseless charges against Sinatra, seen in the main picture (second left) with underworld figures including Carlo Gambino, of the notorious Mob family (second right). The photograph, taken in New York in 1976, was used as evidence at a Maßa trial

Las Vegas and his contacts back to a 1938 mugshot taken ed to serve in the war. The FBI describing, in the dry language described psychic claiming from a field agent in Detroit, with the Mafia underworld. Among Mafia figures whom

were Sam Giancana, Charles Capone's cousin Joseph Fischetti. The ties between the singer and the Mafia first became headline news in 1947, when he attended a lavish party in Cuba in honour of Luciano, who had at that time been deported from the United States.

The FBI said it was releasing all but 25 pages of its files on Sinatra, dating all the way

duction charges. The crooner, Sinatra counted as his friends agents said, had seen all the material himself after he had to them in 1979 and 1980.

Among the papers yesterday was the disclosure that the FBI received tip-offs from the late entertainment columnist Walter Winchell. In 1944 Winchell told agents about alleged death threats to a baby of the singer. In the same year he said Sinatra had paid \$40,000 for a government classification to avoid being draft-

when he was arrested on se- investigated but found the of law-enforcement agents, oc- that the singer was a political charges to be baseless.

and covered with pencil marks and extortion schemes. There East, East against West". Sinatra was part of an alleged conspiracy to defraud \$100,000 from a stockbroker named Ronald Alpert. Among others listed as part of the plot are several well-known former crime figures, including Aniello Dellacroce, Carlo Gambino, of the infamous New York Gambino Mob family, and

Guiseppo "Joe" Gallo. There are serial documents

casions when Sinatra had been on a report of a 1966 bomb

threat against him in Miami Beach as well as a 1969 threat in which Sinatra was given the option of facing death or donating \$2m to the Vatican. The sender of that letter was not prosecuted but dispatched by federal agents for psychiatric treatment

Included in the files is a hand-written letter from a self-

subversive bent on dividing the A memorandum dated 1971 the target both of death threats United States "West against

> reports that he was a closet "red under the bed". One section of yesterday's compendium includes a 1955 message to the legendary director of the FBL J Edgar Hoover, from the Philadelphia field office reporting that an informant had claimed "Frank Sinatra. well-known radio and movie star, is a member of the Communist Party". Another memo

however, says that Sinatra "was never active in the CP or related front-group activities in the state of Michigan".

denied all the allegations that

were made against him. When his Cuba visit stirred suspicion of Mafia involvement, he famously replied: "Any report that I fraternised with goons and racketeers is a vicious lie." But he added: "I was brought up to shake a man's hand when I am introduced to him without first in-

Saatchi auction raises £1.6m

By DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

THE YOUNG British Artists are alive and wealthy. A £1.6m sale of 130 works by the leading names in contemporary art broke world records yesterday and proved that Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and co have proved their worth.

In the sale mounted by Christie's in a converted warehouse in London - because a conventional saleroom could not house the outsize installations - work by this year's Turner Prize winner, Chris Ofili, and fellow Briton Sarah Lucas also achieved record prices.

The works came from the advertising agency mogul Charles Saatchi. He was selling 5 per cent of his collection to raise money for art-student bursaries. His decision to offload works by 97 artists prompted speculation that BritArt, the movement that has dominated the cutting-edge exhibition spaces in the Nineties, might be on the wane. The speculation could not have been more wrong. Again and again, prices more than doubled the saleroom estimates.

Hirst's cabinet of jars of internal organs of cattle called The mitted, Detached, Compromising) fetched the joint top price of the day £139,000 - matched by German artist Thomas Schutte. Whiteread's cast of a sink went for £133,000, a record for her. And an Ofili painting sold for £21.850 against an estimate of £10,000. Charles Saatchi said last

night that the works had "captured people's imagination". BritArt's big day out, Review Front

Hinchliffe on corruption charges

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE; the By NIGEL COPE Sheffield entrepreneur whose Facia retailing group collapsed two years ago with debts of £100m, was yesterday charged a a court in the city with 10 counts of corruption, the Serious Fraud Office said.

It is the latest in a series of blows to the former Facia chief, whose retail empire briefly included well-known high-street names such as Sock Shop, Freeman Hardy and Willis, Red or Dead and Salisburys. The SFO charges relate to Mr Hinchliffe's involvement with the Israeli United Mizrahi Bank, which helped finance Facia's purchase of a string of shoe shops from Sears, the

Associate City Editor

struggling retail group. The charges allege Mr Hinchliffe and his partner, Christopher Harrison, who was not indicted yesterday, paid large sums of money to John Doherty, described as "an agent of United Mizrahi Bank." The payments, in 1994, were allegedly "an inducement or reward for showing favour in relation to the affairs of the United Mizrahi

the German authorities pending a trial on unrelated charges.

Mr Harrison is being held by Mr Doherty was charged with 11 counts of accepting in-

ducements and one count of campaign that has been conpaying an inducement to another United Mizrahi "agent". In all, he is charged with accepting £900,000.

Another man, Robert Leckie, was charged in a London court yesterday with five counts of aiding and abetting the acceptance of the inducements by Mr Doherty. Mr Hinchliffe's lawyers said

he was "flabbergasted" by his arrest. He will be pleading "not guilty", his lawyers said and is looking forward to "defending the action root and branch." "He doesn't accept any of it

He has been remanded on £300,000 bail to 26 February. The other men have been remanded on bail of £50,000. Mr Hinchliffe shot to promi-

ducted against him."

nence in 1996 when he pulled off a string of deals which saw him buy a series of struggling highstreet businesses at knockdown prices. A strapping 6 foot 5 inch man with a shock of blond hair and lavish lifestyle, he was the epitome of the fast-living 1980s entrepreneur.

But the businesses he bought could not cope with the at all." his lawvers said. "The speed of expansion and the case will allow him to address empire was eventually placed once and for all the whispering into administration.



Stephen Hinchliffe was "flabbergasted" by arrest

Pinochet's lawyers are Amnesty donors

THE LAW firm seeking to block BY KIM SENGUPTA General Augusto Pincochet's AND STEVE BOGGAN extradition to Spain on the grounds that one of the Law Lords has links with Amnesty International is itself a contributor to the human rights

dent can reveal. City lawyers Kingsley Napley have objected to the Home Secretary about Lord Hoffman, who ruled against the former Chilean dictator, on the grounds that his wife, Gillian, is an administrative assistant with Amnesty International. Amnesty International has since stated that Lord Hoffman

is also an unpaid director of a

charity affiliated to Amnesty.

de int

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, who ruled in favour of General Pinochet's immunity in the High Court is pressure group, The Indepen- also involved with the charity. And Colin Nicholls QC, the brother of the general's counsel, Clive Nicholls, is a member

of Amnesty. Lord Hoffman is one of the Law Lords who ruled, on a majority of three to two, that General Pinochet does not benefit from immunity on charges of genocide, torture and terrorism

as a former head of state. Amnesty International and other human rights groups view preferred."

made representations at the hearing that the former dictator should face justice.

Kingsley Napley last night confirmed that a donation had been made to Amnesty International. The Independent has learned that in their submission to the Home Office General Pinochet's lawyers stated: "The claim to sovereign immunity was rejected by a majority of the House of Lords. Lord Hoffman, who formed part of the majority, should not

have heard the appeal. "The decision reached by the House of Lords should therefore be reviewed by the Secretary of State and the majority

Bug threat to missile system

THE GOVERNMENT admitted BY PAUL WAUGH yesterday that the Millennium bug posed a real threat to Britain's armed forces after tests found that it disabled completely a key anti-aircraft missile system.

The Defence Secretary, George Robertson, revealed that Rapier, the Army's main low-level air defence unit, had failed when tested for compliance with the year 2000.

Describing preparations for the bug as the Ministry of Defence's "highest priority" after its main front-line operations, Mr Robertson said that £200m had been allocated to make

Political Correspondent

armed forces will be on standby to offer emergency help if other government departments, or even other countries, suffer major breakdowns in communications or infrastructure, he confirmed.

More than 1,000 front-line and 18,000 non-critical computer systems in the MoD had been identified as vulnerable to the millennium problem.

The Defence Secretary said that half of all the front-line computers and electronic equipment had been made safe sure the date change passed by and 95 per cent should be coras smoothly as possible. The rected by next autumn.

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Right to roam delayed until Lords reform

THE GOVERNMENT is to grant BY COLIN BROWN, walkers legal rights of access to private land, but intends to delay the move until after the reform of the House of Lords.

Senior ministers have decided that the Government would not succeed until after the hereditary peers - includ-ing many of Britain's biggest owners of moorland and heath ~ have been removed from the Upper House.

'We will need some legal underpinning. But we won't be able to start until the Lords is reformed," said a source.

The delay could mean putting off action until after the general election, disappointing Labour voters who have been campaigning for the right to roam. Earlier this year the Government said it would consider working for improved access through voluntary agreements, if they could be shown to be satisfactory.

In response, the Country Landowners' Association set up an access register and posted it on the Internet to show the number of sites where walkers are welcomed. At the start of this month more than 2,000 sites were represented, the CLA said, representing over a

PAUL WAUGH AND MICHAEL MCCARTHY

million acres. But this figure falls short of the Government's target of granting access to all 3.5m acres of "open countryside" - mountain, moor, heath, down and common land - in England and Wales. Many Labour MPs were dis-

appointed by the Government's voluntary approach, after the party's clear pre-election commitment to legislate on the right to roam. At a Ramblers' Association rally in 1995, Frank Dobson, then Labour environment spokesman, said: "The next Labour government will make the right to roam a legal reality. We will change the law to give people that right."

Tony Blair followed this up

with a personal pledge, in a let-ter to the Ramblers' David Behe said: "As Frank Dobson Labour government will give people a 'right to roam', which will be coupled with a duty to respect crops, livestock and valu-

Michael Meacher, the Environment minister, will today use there was a right of access.

Commission to state that a final decision on the right to roam will be announced in the next few weeks.

Gillian Shephard, the Conservative environment spokeswoman, yesterday backed calls for some form of legislation, but accused Mr Meacher of being motivated by old fashioned 'class warfare" over the issue.

Mrs Shephard said that there was neither a need nor a demand for a catch-all "freedom to roam" law, but there was a case for new legislation to redefine laws of trespass and landowner liability.

Ministers are still considering the detail of the legal powers that would be required.

The Green Paper proposed a right of access to mountain, moor, heath and down and registered common land, but it stopped short of a right to roam skine later that year, in which in all circumstances. It ruled out access to developed land, pointed out in his speech, a and said the right should not extend to agricultural land not used for extensive grazing.

The Countryside Commission would have a statutory duty to issue guidance on identifying countryside to which



Actress Billie Whitelaw preparing to present awards at the Carlton Women in Film and TV ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel in London yesterday

Neville Elder

Disgraced Newcastle duo return

NEWCASTLE UNITED'S little By PETER THAL LARSEN remaining credibility in the City of London was wiped away vesterday when Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall, the football club's disgraced shareholders, returned to the board after a nine-month absence. prompting a walk-out by three other directors.

Denis Cassidy, Newcastle's chairman, and two non-executive directors resigned after the board voted by a majority of four to three to reappoint the duo. BT Alex Brown, the City firm that acts as Newcastle's stockbroker also stepped down.

The boardroom exodus casts doubt over Newcastle's pany. The club has been in an almost permanent crisis since it floated on the stock market two years ago. During that time, nearly all the original board members have left the

Minority shareholders must be punch drunk by now." said Nick Batram, a football analyst at City stockbrokers Greig Middleton. "It comes as no surprise. There have been

more transfers on the board than on the playing squad." The club has struggled on the pitch, finishing in the bottom half of the Premier League last season and losing the FA

current season it removed Kenny Dalglish as manager, replacing him with Ruud Gullit.

Since its flotation at a share price of 135p, Newcastle shares have steadily lost ground, although they have recently been lifted by hopes that the club might be taken over by a media group. Yesterday, the shares slipped 3p to close at 94p.

The latest row follows moves by Mr Shepherd and Mr Hall to re-elect themselves to the board of Newcastle United Pic, the holding company for the football club. The two men were forced to resign in disstatus as a publicly listed comexposed in the News of the World mocking the club's fans and insulting the players.

Mr Cassidy who took over as chairman in July, acknowledged his opposition to their return to the board of the company. Instead, he agreed to reappoint them to the board of the football club, which is a subsidiary of the holding company.

Last month, however, Mr Shepherd and Mr Hall announced plans to seek re-election at the company's annual general meeting. As the two men between them control 65 per cent of the club's share capital, they could vote through any

Gummer unrepentant on feeding daughter a hamburger

THE FORMER minister who By Charles Arthur fed his six-year-old daughter a bamburger to promote a government line that "beef is safe" expressed no regret yesterday, saying that he was not then aware of any health risks from

John Gummer, who held office at the Ministry of Agricul- back a ban on offal such as the

Technology Editor

ture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) from September 1985 to May 1993 - including a promotion in 1989 - told the BSE inquiry yesterday that in 1990 he had not heard any scientific evidence to

as important as these it is essential to have a personal benchmark to be applied to decisions wherever appropriate. In such circumstances I applied the test, Would I be

entirely happy for my children to eat this?" Mr Gummer said. So in 1990 he posed for

tural fair, pressing a hot burger gor, had announced that such on his daughter Cordelia.

The Southwood report, published in February 1989, had suggested such a ban on offals for humans because those would be the most infectious parts of cattle incubating the disease.

The previous ministerial

a ban would be implemented.

Mr Gummer said that despite the rising numbers of BSE cases - then nearly 5,000 annually - and although it was his job to implement the legislation, he did not feel a sense of ities whom he had to consult urgency. He said: "The offal ban were on summer holiday.

spinal cord and gut. "In matters photographers at an agricul- team, including John MacGre- had not been asked for On the other hand it was something we had determined to do."

> He added that he did not then believe the ban was "essential for public health" and said that when he took over his ministerial position many local author-

there was a serious risk to public health he said: "All I can say

is that was not put to me. In fact the opposite was put to me." But Mr Gummer agreed that if legislation was seen as urgent there was often room to "find a way through". In fact, the offal

Asked if he might have ban was not introduced until moved quicker if he thought November 1989 - 10 months after the Southwood report suggested it.

In the time Mr Gummer was at Maff, BSE was first identified and the epidemic peaked. But the first cases in humans, as CJD. were only recognised three years later.



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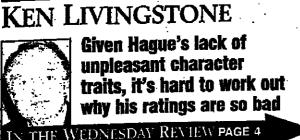
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flown to Cuba to study a vaccine that has wiped out meningitis on the island. They hope it could help doctors in this country to tackle the disease.

The Caribbean island was ravaged by a series of meningococcal epidemics in the Seventies and Eighties and as a result scientists there developed a vaccine to prevent the strain of meningitis B responsible for the outbreaks.

The rate of meningitis in Cuba is now a tenth of that in Britain with only 0.3 cases per 100,000 population. During the epidemics, however, 250 people per year were dying in a population of 11 million.

"Many children and young adults lost their lives and others were made severely ill," said Lourdes Alisia Diaz, scientific adviser at the Cuban Embassy. "A vaccine was developed

Social Affairs Correspondent

against a particular strain of the disease and a mass immunisation programme began.

"Within a few years the numbers of cases of meningitis started to go down and now we have reached the stage where there are just one or two cases of illness among those who have not been vacrinated As far as the World Health Organisation is concerned menin-

gitis does not exist in Cuba." Researchers from Imperial College, London, have gone to Cuba to see if the vaccine can be developed to combat meningitis in this country. Every year 250 people in Britain die from the disease, which strikes quickly. Cases have doubled over the past 10 years although there is no known explanation for this.

World War.

The scientists in Cuba. whose work will be featured in BBC1's Tomorrow's World this evening, were able to develop a vaccine because the isolated island only had one strain of meningitis B. There are more than a dozen strains of meningitis B in this country, meaning that the vaccine could not be used here in its present state. Trials in Brazil and Iceland of the vaccine have not shown the

same success because of this. Linda Glennie, medical information officer for the Meningitis Research Foundation, in Bristol said the vaccine worked by focusing on proteins in the outer membrane of the bacteria.

"The results of our tests will not be known until the spring," Ms Glennie said. "The scientists are examining blood taken from

ber of cases since the Second nated to see if it kills the Cuban bacteria and if it can be used to

kill other meningitis bacteria. "We hope that this research project will provide vital clues which will enable scientists to develop a vaccine against B strain. which accounts for about 60 per cent of cases [in Britain].

The foundation launched a 24-hour helpline yesterday for anyone with a suspected case of meningitis or septicaemia, which the bacteria also cause.

"In many cases last year parents found out too late that a child or teenager was seriously ill," a spokeswoman for the foundation said. "The symptoms are very difficult to diagnose as they are similar to flu. but people have to trust their instincts and seek medical help if they feel it is something more serious.

Freephone meningitis helpline (24 hours): 0808 800 3344

Universities get £776m windfall

UNIVERSITIES will receive an By JUDITH JUDD extra £776m over the next two years as the Government reinvests the proceeds of tuition

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said the money would help them to recruit a further 61,000 students. He set a new target of an extra 100,000 higher education students by 2002 - the

previous target was 80,000. Mr Blunkett said he expected universities to increase their efforts to attract more students from poorer backgrounds and from groups which are underrepresented in higher educa- from increased research funding tion. Around half of the 100,000 students will be part-time and eccess funds for poor students

will be increased. When ministers introduced tuition fees of £1,000 a year from this term, they argued that a breakthrough for the new unithey wanted to safeguard stan-

dards and widen access. Mr Blunkett said: "This extra money is designed to re-played an important part in the verse the serious decline in funding over the past decade. It will enable universities to nouncement marks a new era maintain their position among the world leaders for quality

and excellence." have modernised funding and short of the amount recomintroduced a fair new system mended by Lord Dearing in his that we have been able to report, which recommended provide these substantial new

"In return for the £5bn (total budget] higher education institutions will receive in each of the next two years, we expect res-

olute action from them to broad-

IN BRIEF

TWO PEOPLE died and a third was injured yesterday when an explosion destroyed a barge thought to be used as a houseboat on the river Penryn in the Cornish town. Two bodies were recovered from the water. A 16-year-old girl with minor injuries was taken to Treliske Hospital in Truro. Police said the blast could have been caused by gas.

Sunshine holidays firm collapses A TOUR operator specialising in sunshine breaks worldwide ceased trading yesterday, but UK travellers currently abroad will be able to carry on with their holidays. Also, those booked with London-based Frequent Guide company, which was licensed to carry more than 80,000 passengers a year, will get their money back.

Cocaine smuggled in earthmover COCAINE WITH a street value of around £50m was found stashed inside an earthmover by Customs officials, it was revealed yesterday. The drugs were hidden in the boom arm of the vehicle, which arrived at Felixstowe from South America. Three Dutch nationals were later arrested.

Hewitt sues over Diana's letters JAMES HEWITT has issued a writ against solicitors

Lawrence Graham over letters written to him by Diana, Princess of Wales. In the writ, issued at the High Court yesterday, Mr Hewitt, who had an affair with the princess, claims he has been "wrongfully deprived" of the letters. currently in the hands of solicitors acting for her estate.

Houseboat blast kills two

Education Editor

en access to under-represented social groups."

Actors in 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' costumes at a party last night at Home House, London, to raise money for the

new RSC Acting Fund; the event also marked the opening of the 18th-century house as a private club Tom Pilston

The Government confirmed that colleges at Oxford and Cambridge universities will lose around a third of the value of the extra grants they receive to support the tutorial system and college facilities.

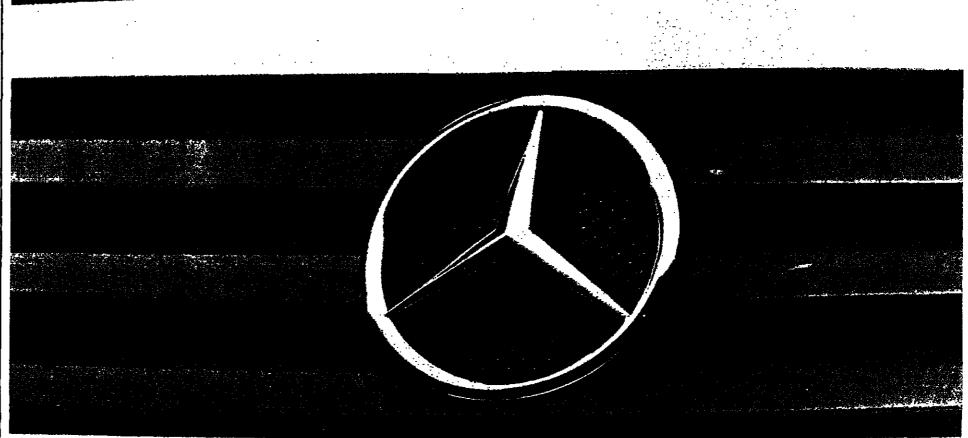
The £35m they receive will be incorporated over 10 years into the two universities' central grants. But the Government expects the universities to make up the loss by winning more money announced earlier this year.

Tom Wilson, head of the universities' department at the Na-Further and Higher Education, said: "Today's announcement is versities who take the lion's share of part-time and access students.

"They have traditionally education and training of working class students. This anof genuinely equal opportunities

But the Liberal Democrats He added: "It is because we said the new funds fell well tuition fees.

> Phil Willis, the party's higher education spokesman, said: "The resources do little more than meet the additional cost of 100,000 extra students by the year 2002, estimated at £400m."



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Freudian-slip funsters find asylum in chamber of errors

"MENTAL ILLNESS is as common son had come to pitch into a pauas asthma," announced Frank Dobson yesterday. "It affects as many as one in six adults at any one time."

There were about a hundred MPs in the chamber when he said this, which suggested 16 or 17 of his colleagues might be showing signs of mild delusion if the assembly were genuinely representative of the nation at large. But they are not -if anything, the ratio in Parliament an Gothic pile in which they can is likely to be rather higher than in the general population, given the established connection between high

achievement and mental fragility. The absent villain here was Care in the Community, which Mr Dob-

per's grave, but Honourable Members have long been exempt from such programmes. Outside of an election year, they know they won't find themselves turned out on to the streets, where they might trouble the public by shouting aggressive questions about fiscal autonomy for the Scottish parliament. They already have their asylum, a Victoripursue their obsessions protected by a diligent and caring staff; Betty Boothroyd may be strict but she is no Nurse Ratchett and only waves the strait-jackets when other therapeutic interventions have failed.

But if Mr Dobson's figures are correct, they can't all be mad which puts a particular premium on identifying the timiest symptoms of derangement. This isn't easy, given the general peculiarity of behaviour in the House. What psychiatrists call "dissociation of effect", for instance, is commonplace in the Chamber. This is when a patient bursts out laughing or roaring with anger, despite the absence of any obvious stimulus. Yesterday, during Ann Widdecombe's reply, Paul Boateng, who usually appears har har!" employing the mirth-

THE SKETCH

SUTCLIFFE

broadly sane, suddenly went "Har, to convey contempt. On the Tory benches, John Bercow was twitch-

Dr Liam Fox, up against Donald Dewar in Scottish questions, had written his notes in green ink, often accepted as an unambiguous indicator of mental disturbance.

But for all these symptoms there were also innocent explanations. Psychoanalytic approaches are no more successful either, given that politicians are subject to inhibitions over and above those felt by the rest of us. Freudian slips, for instance, are unlikely to open a window on the inner psyche of a politician, only into the cavity wall between public presentation and private opinion. Mr less, italicised laugh members use ing and jerking like a bad case of Dobson, a decent and diligent min-

shell shock, while I noticed also that ister, is rather prone to these involuntary revelations - a couple of weeks ago, discussing pay rates in the NHS, he told the House "we all know that pay increases have to be

avoidable er affordable. Yesterday he thanked Nicholas Winterton for welcoming his statement, saying he had been "more supportive than the present government um - than the previous one". Ann Widdecombe had earlier sought a guarantee that there would be "no enforced medication of parents - I mean patients". This seemed more promising as a diagnostic clue, after references to "inappropriate discharges" and a

wards in mental hospitals. Does she secretly dream of dosing the water with bromide and putting an end to all inappropriate discharges, inside the NHS and out." Well probably not - if she suffers from neurosis it is likely to be only that occupational disease of adversary politics, a phobia of admitting the other side have done something sensible. Still, it is very confusing. One can only sympathise with the journalist overheard approaching a member of Mr Dobson's team and asking for help - This mental health statement, he said wistfully. "any chance of an idiot's guide?"

Psychopaths to be locked up for safety

BY GLENDA COOPER Social Affairs Correspondent

PLANS TO lock up psychopaths who pose a risk to the public were announced by the Secretary of State for Health yesterday in wide-ranging changes to mental health services.

In a Commons statement, Frank Dobson said an extra £700m would be invested over three years to create a system that was "safe and sound for both patients and the public". Reiterating his belief that

care in the community had failed. Mr Dobson said changes to the system were urgent and necessary. "Its failure to deal effectively with the most severe cases has dealt a blow to all mental health efforts and lost the confidence of the public."

Mr Dobson told MPs that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and he were looking at plans to create a new form of "renewable detention" for people with who were thought to pose a grave risk to the public.

At present the Mental Health Act covers only those with "treatable" conditions. If the new plans are adopt-

ed, this category would cover people such as Michael Stone, who was convicted of murdering Lin and Megan Russell and who suffers from an untreatable psychopathic disorder.

Mr Dobson said renewable detention raised all sorts of ethical and practical problems. "But we are convinced the safety of the public must be the prime concern," he added. A na-



Dobson: Public safety was the biggest concern

tional service framework to spell out the mental health services needed for every part of Britain will be put in place and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence will issue guidance on the most effective treatments for mental illness.

The Government will invest an extra £510m over the next three years in NHS mental health services, bringing the total extra investment in mensevere personality disorders tal health services over that period to about £700m.

"At the end of three years we expect to see more secure to report back by summer 2000. beds; access to new drugs; assertive outreach teams where British Medical Association they are most needed; more day and the National Association for and respite care; more supported accommodation and improved services for children and adolescents," he said.

The minister said the plans were "far-reaching improvements" to a system that had "suffered from ineffective practices, an outdated legal framework and lack of resources".

He said confidence in the service was "in crisis - mainly

because it isn't coping with the small minority of mentally ill people who are a nuisance or a danger to both themselves But the Conservative Health spokeswoman, Ann Widde-

combe, told MPs: "The view of the profession is that care in the community has been an overwhelming success, and it is only a small number of inappropriate discharges that have caused quite justifiable concern amongst the public." She told Mr Dobson that a

major factor in patients' defaulting on medication was the rationing of the latest antipsychotic drugs. Simon Hughes, for the Lib-

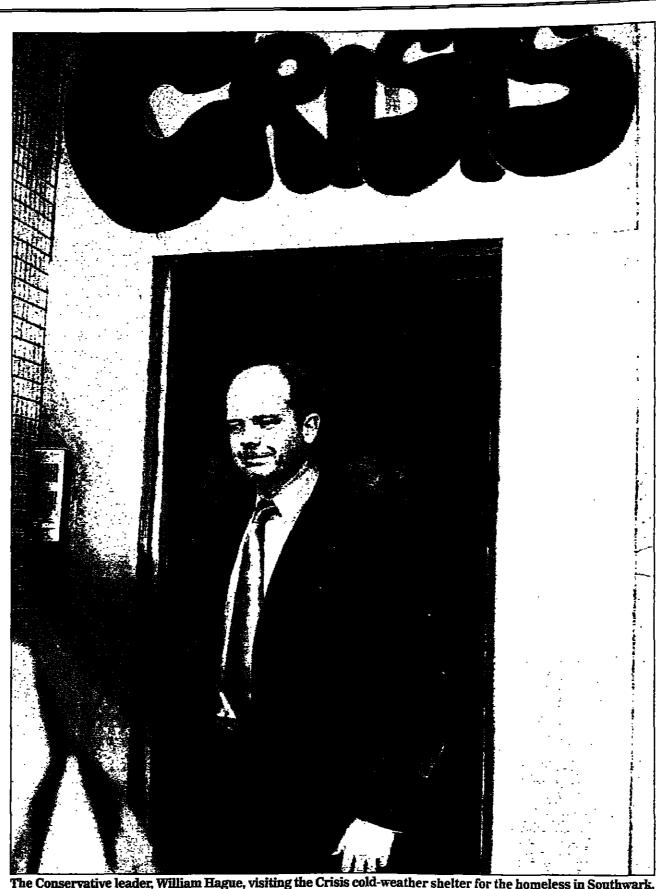
eral Democrats, urged the Government to put more money into mental health care. "It would be better as a policy not to be tough on care in the community but to be tough in providing resources for care in the community," he said. A review of mental health

legislation in Scotland was also announced by the Scottish health minister, Sam Galbraith, Mental health charities, the

the Care and Resettlement of Offenders broadly welcomed Mr Dobson's announcement

But Cliff Prior, the chief executive of the National Schizophrenia Society, said the proposed reforms were not backed by enough money, describing them as "the right menu but in small portions". Leading article,

New accident insurance laws



Hague appoints five peers to team

BY ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

WILLIAM HAGUE turned to the grandson of the former Labour prime minister Clement Attlee last night as he made five appointments to his depleted frontbench in the House of Lords.

Earl Attlee, a hereditary peer who switched from the independent cross benches to the Tories two months before last year's general election, becomes an opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland. He was previously a Tory whip.

The promotion of the 42year-old Territorial Army officer was part of the Tory party leader's attempt to restore a sense of order to his troubled troops in the Lords. Four Tory peers resigned from his frontbench team on Thursday in protest at the sacking of Viscount Cranborne as opposition leader in the Lords for conducting secret negotiations with Tony Blair in an attempt to reach an all-party consensus on reform of the second chamber. Also promoted to the Tory

team is Baroness Denton of Wakefield, a former racing and rally driver who was a minister at the Northern Ireland, trade and environment departments in John Major's administration. She becomes a trade and industry spokeswoman. She left the front bench last year, when she was diagnosed as having a malignant brain tumour, but has now recovered after an operation a year ago.

The other appointments announced by Mr Hague last night were Lord Cope, a former Treasury minister and Conservative Party treasurer, who becomes a home affairs spokesman: Lord Dixon-Smith, a farmer who becomes a local govern ment spokesman; and Lord Astor of Hever, who is made a whip working on the health and social security briefs.

OUESTIONS AND

ANSWERS Wine drinking

THE GOVERNMENT has spent £192,604 on wine. with the average bottle costing £11.72 since coming to power last May, Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett disclosed.

Good causes

THE AMOUNT of National Lottery money going to good causes has reached £6.6bn, Sports minister Tony Banks said.

Woodlands

A NEW set of priorities for managing England's woodland was published yesterday, Agriculture

'will penalise motorists' THE GOVERNMENT came

under attack for penalising motorists yesterday when Frank Dobson moved to recover some of the cost of treating road accident victims from insurers. While the Secretary of State

for Health acknowledged that the Association of British Insurers had estimated premiums could rise by up to £9 per policy if the full charge was passed on, he said the industry would have had nearly two years to adjust by the time the changes became law next year.

Opening the second reading debate on the Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Bill, Mr Dobson dismissed accusations of big increases in insurance premiums as "untrue scare stories". But Ann Widdecombe, the

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Shadow health secretary, said the Government was determined to "penalise motorists" after parallel rises in fuel and vehicle excise duties.

Challenging Mr Dobson over who would pay for uninsured motorists, she added: "This legislation will be a doublewhammy for everyone who is prudent enough to take out a motor insurance because as law-abiding citizens they will be charged twice."

Mr Dobson insisted the charges were not new because insurers had been liable since 1930 and the current collection system was a "shambles". We are just making sure that in future NHS hospitals get the money to which they have been entitled for the last 68

The switch to a central "recovery unit" to collect the money direct from insurance companies could net up to £165m for hospitals in Britain, the Health Secretary claimed.

"The new scheme will bring order out of chaos. It will not place a large burden on motorists or insurers. "It is a sensible, practical

measure that will raise much needed extra funds for hospitals in every part of the country," he

Mr Dobson said the NHS was losing substantial amounts of money because the present system for collecting the

charges, combining "minimal income with maximum inconvenience", had failed.

Last year it raised just £16m, with NHS staff forced to ask injured motorists for an emergency treatment fee in the aftermath of a crash.

Under the Bill, the right of NHS hospitals to levy an emergency fee will be abolished and a tariff of charges will be in-troduced instead for the recovery unit to call up in the case of an accident and pursue with

There will be a flat rate fee of £354 for those who did not need to stay in hospital, and a daily charge for those needing to stay in hospital of £435, with a maximum ceiling in any one

Universities

MORE ENGLISH students have accepted places to study at Scottish universities despite introduction of tuition fees. Scottish minister Helen Liddell said. "Seven per cent more English students have accepted places at Scottish universities this year compared with last year which I think gives the lie to some of the

scaremongering that we heard some months ago," she said. **Justice Bill**

GEOFF HOON, minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, admitted he was "slightly surprised" barristers had raised few objections to proposals to make it easier for solicitors

and legal executives to work

as advocates in court. The

minister said they broadly

The House



Access to Justice Bill.

Service life

MARRIAGE BREAKDOWNS and relationship problems are rife for young servicemen because of operations and training, Tory peer Earl Attlee said.

Devolution

THERE IS no "plot" to weaken Scottish devolution after a Civil Service memo showed Whitehall wanted to keep public funds that could be handed to the Edinburgh

Parliament, Scottish Office minister Calum MacDonald

Today's business COMMONS MEETS at

9.30am for backbench debates on: Road traffic reductions; north-west regeneration; predict and provide policy in housing projections; retail food sector, case of Major Eric Joyce. At 2.30pm: Welsh questions. At 3pm: questions to the Prime Minister, followed by debates initiated by Tories on decommissioning and release of prisoners in Northern Ireland; and tax. Debate on Section 155 of the Finance Act 1998, opened by Stephen Byers. Lords debates: The agriculture industry; implications of advances in medical science on the NHS; organophosphate

For some the war in the Far East was over in August 1945. For others the battle still goes on.

This week marks the 57th anniversary of Pearl Harbour. The Japanese authorities have yet to make any meaningful restitution or apology for the terrible suffering endured by thousands of Allied servicemen and women, and civilians of all ages, who vere imprisoned and interned between the attack on Pearl arbour and the surrender in Tokyo Bay in August 1945.

With each day that passes the number of survivors becomes fewer. Before their lives fade into lonely and bitter memory, this is an appeal for people in Britain to show their deep feelings of dissatisfaction with the stance of the Japanese authorities and deliver a clear message. Send a Christmas card to the Japanese Ambassador, 101 Piccadilly, London W1V 9FN, as a peaceful signal of solidarity with this just cause.

This is 'people POWer' - make it work!

If you feel as we do that this is a matter that must reach a fair and just conclusion, and very soon, please also write to Robin Cook, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SWIA 2AH.

This advertisement has been paid for by anonymous supporters of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, Oriel House, Church Green, Witney, Oxon, and the Association of British Civilian Internees. Far East Region. Northington Lodge, Northington, Hampshire.

cause of a lack of Lottery money, Sir Brian Corbv

resigned as chairman of the

Sir Brian was replaced by Mr Bernerd, a property de-

veloper, who said at the time

that he was "emotionally and

aesthetically committed" to Lord Rogers' design.
But his commitment was

not enough to save the wavy

A spokesman for the South

Bank Centre said yesterday: We were looking for some-

thing that we could phase in

over a period of time, which would be more practical and

help with costs, but the glass

roof would have had to be con-

structed in one go and it was

not possible. "This scheme is just as ambitious and fits in

well with the redevelopment all

No details on funding were

available yesterday but the

Arts Council has promised up

to £20m of Lottery money, the

Heritage Lottery Fund is said

along the river."

centre's board.

glass roof.

PREH GRICE

Editor

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South Bank buildings to be razed and rebuilt

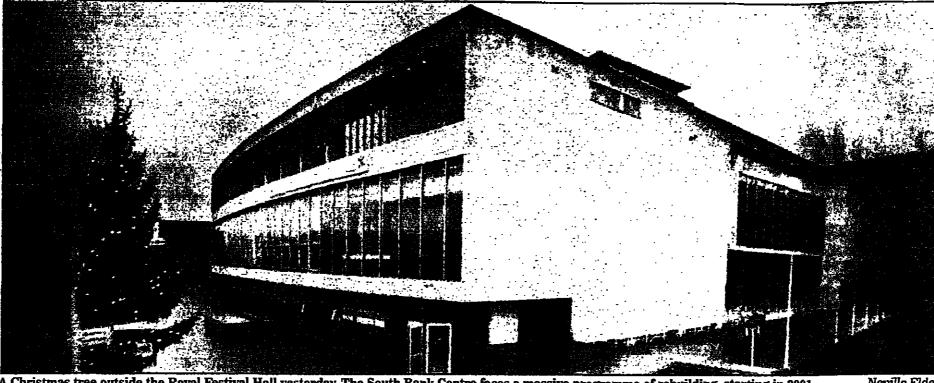
BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

MUCH OF the forbidding concrete jungle that is the South Bank arts complex in London will be torn down and replaced with new galleries, concert halls and cinemas.

The Royal Festival Hall, scene of the Government's ecstatic celebrations after the general election, remains and will be restored and expanded. But the Hayward Gallery, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Purcell Room and the concrete walkways connecting them will be demolished and rebuilt fur-

The scheme, somewhat less grandiose than the architect Richard Rogers' original plan for a wavy glass roof covering the entire centre, was announced yesterday by Elliott Bernerd, the chairman of the complex. A new film complex will be built on the site, which will house the National Film Centre, the Museum of the headquarters of the British Film Institute.

A building will be positioned on the Hungerford car park Festival Hall not only restored site overlooking Jubilee Gar- but supported by properly dens and the arches under Hungerford and Waterloo and well-designed, user-



Moving Image, currently A Christmas tree outside the Royal Festival Hall yesterday. The South Bank Centre faces a massive programme of rebuilding, starting in 2001 under Waterloo Bridge, and the

Bridges will be opened up to friendly open spaces. Our obimprove access. Mr Bernerd said: "We want to see the Royal equipped new arts buildings

jective is to keep our arts buildings open during the millennium celebrations and then to implement our strategy, in a phased way, beginning

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, said the new proposals were "very dyand Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, said the regeneration would transform the

"most important site in the heart of London into a worldclass arts complex".

Trevor Nunn, director of the National Theatre, said the plans would improve access from Waterloo rail station and make the South Bank more accessible to tourists and the local community.

Although everyone seemed happy with the plans vesterday. the regeneration scheme has been the cause of much bitterness since 1986, when the

don Council. When the £100m plans of Lord Rogers of Riverside were ditched earlier this year be-

South Bank Board inherited the site from the Greater Lonto have pledged a further £20m and the publisher Lord Hamlyn is putting up £19m. A master planner for the complex will be appointed

early in the new year and competitions will be held for each element of the new strategy.

Florists guilty of cemetery thefts

A FLORIST collapsed in court By STEPHEN MEREDITH yesterday when he was found guilty of stealing flowers from

David Scott, 61, and his wife Mary, 45, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, were convicted of four charges of taking floral tributes from the garden of remembrance at Preston cemetery in North Shields between February and April this

Judge Denis Orde told them at Durham Crown Court: "You are a couple of grave robbers who committed a very shabby, heartless piece of stealing. Nohody with an ounce of decency

Would do what you did." Judge Orde had to leave court for 10 minutes while Scott tried to compose himself for sentencing.

Scott shook as Judge Orde sentenced them both to a ninemonth prison sentence, suspended for two years. They were each ordered to pay £500 in prosecution costs.

After the case Emma Dorn, 21, of North Shields, the granddaughter of Ethel Houston, whose floral tributes were stolen by the Scotts, said: "It was absolutely shocking when we found out. I think they're sick individuals."

The thefts first came to light on 6 April when the cemetery's caretaker, Miriam McCann, noticed a woman in the garden of Mr Duffield said. remembrance. She approached and saw Mrs Scott carrying floral tributes out of the garden. She put them down before leaving. Mr Scott was seen to be "keeping watch", Brian Forster, for the prosecution, told the

Police later found laurel

taken from a tree in the garden of remembrance and two memorial cards stolen from flowers, one in the back of the couple's car and the other at

their home. Mr Forster said: "At the time the defendants ran a florists shop. The flowers were being stolen to be used from the shop." He later put to the couple: "You were stealing that night and were caught red-

Stephen Duffield, for the defence, said the couple were unlikely candidates to be caught stealing because at the time they ran a reputable business and had never been in trouble with the police before.

handed." They both denied it.

In mitigation he explained how the two were forced to move home because of the abuse they had received. They even had to move their daughter to a different school, he said.

"Their punishment has been very much greater than the loss of their good names," Mr Duffield said. "As soon as the allegations became public they were subjected to verbal abuse. threatening telephone calls. death threats and poison pen letters. Their van has even been petrol bombed and it's been necessary for them to move home to another area,"

The couple were forced to sell their business and now rely on invalidity benefit.

The judge said: "It was a crime of greed - there's no other way of describing it." He had said earlier that the crimes were of the same principle as "lifting the lid off a coffin".

Pub footballers killed in crash

FIVE MEMBERS of a pub foot- BY ESTHER LEACH ball team died and 13 other men The team, from the Stamford was heading for a night out when the crash happened in freezing fog, police said.

of the crash, on the A42 near day. A fifth victim died in hos- scended. pital. One other person was in a "very serious" condition last night and 12 other men in the Newtown Linford; Paul Thompminibus were also hurt. Five of the team were treated for Parker, 21, from Groby, Panayi

were injured when their scene, said: "It was like a scrapminibus and a lorry collided. yard ... with twisted metal everywhere. It's a very busy, Arms, Groby, near Leicester, overcrowded road and I'm not surprised there was a crash

Both vehicles were thought Four men died at the scene to have been travelling in the same direction. Visibility was Measham, at 8.15pm on Mon- about 150 yards when fog de-

Police named the dead men as: Stephen Curtis, 28, from son, 22, from Groby, Stephen minor injuries and went home. Kouroushi, 30, from Groby; and A service engineer, Simon Jeremy Goodhall, 30, from Barnard, who drove near the Leicester Forest East.



EVERYONE RESPONDS TO A CARD.



Discrimination: Code of practice changed as report shows blacks are five times more likely than whites to be stopped

Figures prove harassment of young blacks

BLACK PEOPLE are five times By IAN BURRELL more likely than whites to be stopped and searched and six times more likely to be sent to prison, according to a Home Office report issued yesterday.

The findings prompted the Home Office minister, Paul Boateng, to issue a revised code of practice on stop-andsearch policies, which will oblige police forces to take greater action to monitor and combat discrimination.

The new report identified the Hertfordshire, Leicestershire and Thames Valley forces as having the largest discrepan-cies between the treatment of black and white people. In these forces, black people were seven times more likely than whites to be stopped and searched or arrested.

Black people were most likely to be stopped and searched in the Metropolitan police area. where the practice is more widely used than in other areas. The Met stopped 181 per 1,000 of the black population, compared with 38 per 1,000

Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Boateng said that new performance targets would be drawn up by the Home Office

to measure police practice. He said: "Ensuring the equal treatment of all those that come into contact with the criminal justice system is a key priority for the Government whoever you are, victim, witness, defendant or employee."

But Glen Smyth, of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said yesterday that stop-andsearch "is a very effective tool for dealing with street robbers, drug dealers, terrorists and violent knife offenders.

... in an area, crime goes up. and it goes up against everyone black, white, Asian, Afro-Caribbean, Somalian."

The Home Office report, Sta-11 per cent of the million peospite the fact that black people the victim was white.

make up only 2 per cent of the population.

Asians, who form 3 per cent of the general population were also over-represented, making up 5 per cent of those stopped.

Of the 2 million people arrested during the survey period, 7 per cent were black. In prisons, 12 per cent of male prisoners and 20 per cent of males were black.

Paul Cavadino, director of policy at the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "No one can seriously argue that black people are six times more likely to commit crime than white people.

"The evidence overwhelm-"If you stop stop-and-search ingly suggests that black people who offend are more likely to end up in prison than comparable white offenders." Homicide detection statistics

also showed worrying ethnic tistics on Race and the Crim- variations. In 40 per cent of inal Justice System, found that homicides where the victim was black, the police failed to ple stopped and searched by the find a suspect, compared with police last year were black, de- only 10 per cent of cases where



Alister Morgan, a writer for "The Independent", finds that being stopped by police is a fact of life

Yes, officer, this is my own vehicle'

TRAVELLING IN a car with my BY ALISTER MORGAN sister, we were pulled over on Brixton Hill, south London, by a police vehicle. Barring the issue of colour, we couldn't see any reason why we should have been stopped and began to joke about the situation.

A police officer approached our car to find us laughing; he seemed perturbed that we were not appreciating the gravity of the situation. Before he

her warrant card, confirming that she was also a police officer, "Is there a problem?" she asked. He mumbled an apology and something about "...fitting a description" before scuttling back to his vehicle.

The Home Office's report, published yesterday, highlights Britain's worst-kept secret, at least as far as the black com-

police that the experiences often prompt a kind of gallows humour, as well as anger.
For black males being

stopped by the police is a ritesof-passage experience, akin to getting your heart broken for the first time. As a boy I remember hear-

ng my uncles, (both professional footballers and therefore being hassled by the police. My proceeded to search me, my is paid to do so.

car and was often stopped. On fore thanking me and driving one occasion he was stopped outside his grandmother's home. I recall watching from the house as he explained to the

documents inside. when I was 15. Returning from school with my guitar I was demi-gods to me) talk about stopped by two officers. They nificant time in a police station

car" and that he did have the

so used to being stopped by the uncle David drove a TVR sports guitar case and my guitar beaway. They never explained why they had stopped me.

The real problem is that the experience of being stopped. officer that, 'yes, this was his like the inability to hail a black cab or to sail past customs officials, has become the norm for My 'first time' took place blacks. And the irony is that the only one of my six brothers and sisters who has spent any sig-



Traced NHS fraud doubles in a year

BY GLENDA COOPER Social Affairs Correspondent

THE AMOUNT of National Health Service fraud uncovered has almost doubled over the past year, but the actual figure may be "much higher" than is known, according to the Audit Commission. The commission warned

that not enough health authorities and trusts have strategies in place to fight fraud and corruption, although investigating it should be a priority.

detected fraud rose from \$1.4m in 1996-97 to £2.6m in 1997-98. All land. However, the figures were low compared with the annual £34bn NHS budget and the risk of fraud in some areas.

ed "point to more significant levels of fraud, with some individual



England and Wales, found that sums", the report said. The indication of a much higher actual level is further supported by but £20,000 of this was in Eng-surveys published by the Healthcare Financial Management Association, which estimated a total of £14m last year.

The commission said detec-Cases now being investigat- tion had improved - the amount and staff. The Government ac-

done. The total number of detected NHS fraud cases also rose from 243 in 1996-97 to 252 in 1997-98 (of which 14 were in Wales).

The report urged tighter regulation of the "complex and confusing" system for reimbursing treatment fees and better monitoring processes.

"Some progress has been made by NHS bodies on both fraud prevention and detection," said Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission. "However there is a risk in both England and Wales that the currently reported level of fraud does not represent the actual level... Investigating this should be a priority."

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On Monday, the Health minister Alan Milburn announced that he was setting up squads "fraud-busters" to tackle crime by a "small minority" of patients uncovered is up from £400,000 in cepts prescription fraud alone 1992-93 - but more must be costs the NHS £150m a year.

Farmer's tractor rampage

AN ENRAGED beef farmer By KATE WATSON-SMYTH caused chaos in his village when he went on the rampage in his tractor, damaging a house, several cars and a fire engine. He also brought down overhead power lines and nearly impaled a policewoman.

Andrew Slack, whose trail of byshire village of Dalbury into darkness and caused damage costing thousands of pounds, marksmen fired shots into the tractor tyres. Three policemen tricity and telephone supplies

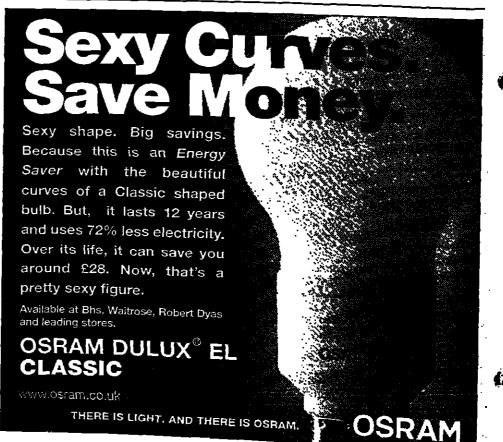
suffered minor injuries and a woman officer had to be pulled through a hedge to avoid being impaled on the hay baling spikes. Police were called after the

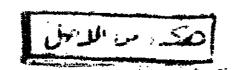
36-year-old farmer, who was destruction plunged the Der- suffering from stress, destroyed a neighbour's house wall by driving through it in his tractor. A fire crew was sent out was stopped only when police after Mr Slack brought down overhead cables, cutting elec-

to the village. Mr Slack drove the tractor straight at the fire engine, ramming it several

times and ripping off the front.

About 20 officers tried to stop Mr Slack but he pursued them down the road. PC Chris Fearn, who sprayed him with CS, said: "It did not affect him - but it did me, and I collapsed on the ground." A police spokesman said yesterday that Mr Slack was sectioned under the Mental Health Act. It was not known whether any criminal charges would be brought.





TO THE HOME SECRETARY

Dear Home Secretary,

ne stopped

We, the undersigned, urge you to allow the full legal process of the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet to proceed.

The Law Lords have found that Pinochet, as an ex-head of state, has no immunity from prosecution for crimes against humanity. This is not just a Chilean issue - both in principle and because of crimes against many nationals in a number of countries. The UN Convention against Torture, ratified by the UK Government, includes the obligation to ensure that those charged with this unspeakable crime cannot escape justice. This provided the basis for the Law Lords historic ruling to allow extradition to proceed. It falls to you to decide whether to heed the voice of humanity - now given legal form - or to collude with those who plead the privilege of high office.

Relatives of the disappeared live among us. During and after September 11, 1973, their loved ones were lost to them. Hopes that they lived faded only slowly in the face of the deliberate indifference of Pinochet's regime. Many who protested were forced into exile and found asylum here. Their loved ones have never been accounted for. The families continue to live in grief without closure. We join them in asking you to ensure that the General answers legally for his deeds.

Pinochet supporters are misguided if they point to the amnesties of the Northern Ireland peace process. For in these cases guilt was established before amnesty was considered.

Despite the legal arguments, we understand you are under pressure from the Chilean military, Pinochet's American allies and the arms industry. They may seek to break your moral resolve and persuade you to send Pinochet back rather than allow extradition to proceed. If you give way to these pressures you will defy the principles of international human rights and it will be a further act of cruelty for the victims of the Chilean experience.

John Lloyd

100A FOLK

Peter Luff

Ricky Lowes

Please do not permit Pinochet to escape the due process of the Law.

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For further information you can contact:

Amnesty International (UK) - 99 Rosebery Avenue,
London EC1R 4RE
Tel: 0171 814 6200 Fax: 0171 833 1510

web: www.amnesty.org.uk

Nina Fishman

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email: med-foundation@pop3.poptel.org.uk

Strange case of 'Mossad agents'

OUTSIDE THE window yester-day, police sirens wailed and black-clad policemen with submachine-guns surrounded the prison van. We, of course, were all waiting for the boys from Mossad to appear at the Lar-

A tired old man was selling scratchcards to Cypriot lawyers. Then a red-haired lady in a faded leather jacket and shiny black leather trousers took her stand in the box for the accused. She looked an unlikely candidate for spying, we thought. Her lawyer sought a remand while Judge Akis Hadjichambis shouted angrily at the journalists pushing through the door.

"What's all that noise about?" he demanded. Poor Dora Droushiotou had never expected this kind of attention. Cameramen, photographers. Israeli journalists – who had hired a private aircraft to bring them in from Tel Aviv - poured into the court. Then it was agreed. The lady could have a remand. "This isn't the spying case - it's not serious," one of the lawyers muttered to us. "She is only charged with hiring someone to kill her husband."

But when the lads we had been waiting for turned up, they, too, looked unlikely spooks. Udi Hargov and Igal Damary were still wearing the zip-up jackets they had on when they made their first court appearance last month. Unshaven - one of them was in jeans, the other in corduroys they both wore spectacles and were thin, rather small men. The charges against them - By ROBERT FISK in Larnaca

that they were spying, with sophisticated technology, on Greek Cypriot military installations - seemed almost preposterous. They entered no plea, but how could anyone think these two were professional secret agents for Israel?

The Cypriot press have al-ready revealed that they rented a flat next to a fish restaurant in the seaside village of Zygi site of a proposed new naval base - but never visited the café and didn't bother to say good morning to the owner. So the proprietor had gone to the police to tell them there was something distinctly fishy about his two uncommunicative neighbours.

According to police officers, they had been found with radio telegraphy equipment, radar scanners and mobile phones, and they had watched convoys of the Greek Cypriot National Guard driving past the restaurant. Reports said that the Cyprus "anti-terrorist" squad had traced their most recent calls - between 15 October and 6 November - to numbers in Tel Aviv that belonged to the "Israeli Intelligence Institute". Other calls had been made to

London. On an island where local journalists think nothing of discussing cases before evidence is given in court, there has been no end of public debate about what Messers Hargov and Damary might have been doing. Their flat was scarcely Lebanon, the Golan Heights.



Igal Damary, one of the two suspected Mossad agents, at the Larnaca court yesterday surrounded by police

200 yards from a National Guards camp - which may be a location for the Russian S-300 missiles that President Glafcos Clerides of Cyprus still insists on bringing to the island this

The Turks have already threatened to bomb the missile bases if they are installed. And Turkey's newest ally in the Middle East is a small Mediterranean country called Israel.

Then there is the S-300 radar system. It can, say the experts, project a coverage of several hundred miles, giving the owners access to most Israeli military air traffic patterns over

Perhaps for this reason, the Hargov and Mr Damary, 49, were expanded yesterday from the original accusation that they were working for a single "foreign country" to the claim that they were gathering information on military installations of use to "any other states"

The Cypriots might have been more easy-going had their arrest not come only three days after an official visit to Cyprus by President Ezer Weizman of Israel – who was at pains to reassure Cypriots that

the West Bank and Israel itself. not threaten them. There was killers sent to Amman as Caalso the little matter of four charges against 37-year-old Mr Israelis arrested here back in 1991 when a policeman came across them - holding tools and a telephone junction box in the lobby of the building housing the Iranian embassy in Nicosia. They claimed they were "looking for a toilet" and were released with a fine for

Indeed, Mossad seems to be having a bad time with its telephone tappers. Only a few months ago, Swiss police caught an Israeli agent bugging the flat of a Swiss citizen of Lebanese origin. Not to mention the two would-be Mossad

nadian tourists to murder an official of the Palestinian organisation, Hamas. They failed - and ended up swapped for the imprisoned Hamas leader. If this is typical of Israel's sup-

posedly élite intelligence ser-

vice, why, one asks oneself, are

the Arabs so paranoid about

At least the Israelis seem to take it seriously. Mossad's operations head resigned - according to the Israeli paper Mooriv - after Hargov and Damary were arrested.

Other Israeli newspapers took it as confirmation that both worked for Mossad when Takis Ioannides/EPA

the Israeli Prime Minister re sponded to the case by saying cryptically that "it's one of those things that the less one talks about, the better".

The defence lawyer Andis Triantafyllides, asking for more time to study the extended charges, obtained a remand in custody for the two Israelis until 21 December. The police in black then snapped handcuffs on the pair and hustled them back into the van, leaving behind two possible thoughts: that Mossad isn't what it is cracked up to be; and that you must never - ever - be rude to the owners of Cypriot fish

Israelis **'unlikely** to hand over land

BY PATRICK COCKBURN in Jerusalem

AS THE PRICE of keeping his right-wing coalition in power, Benjamin Netanyahu is edging away from implementing the next stage of the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

The Israeli Prime Minister survived possible defeat in the Knesset on Monday night by appeasing the far right, who are opposed to the Wye Agreement with the Palestinians. David Bar-Illan, the Prime Minister's communications director, said yesterday that Israel was unlikely to carry out the second: stage of the handover of land.

The crisis within Mr Netanyahu's government and the worst rioting for two years on the West Bank is beginning to overshadow the visit of Presi dent Bill Clinton at the end of the week, during which he will visit Palestinian-run areas.

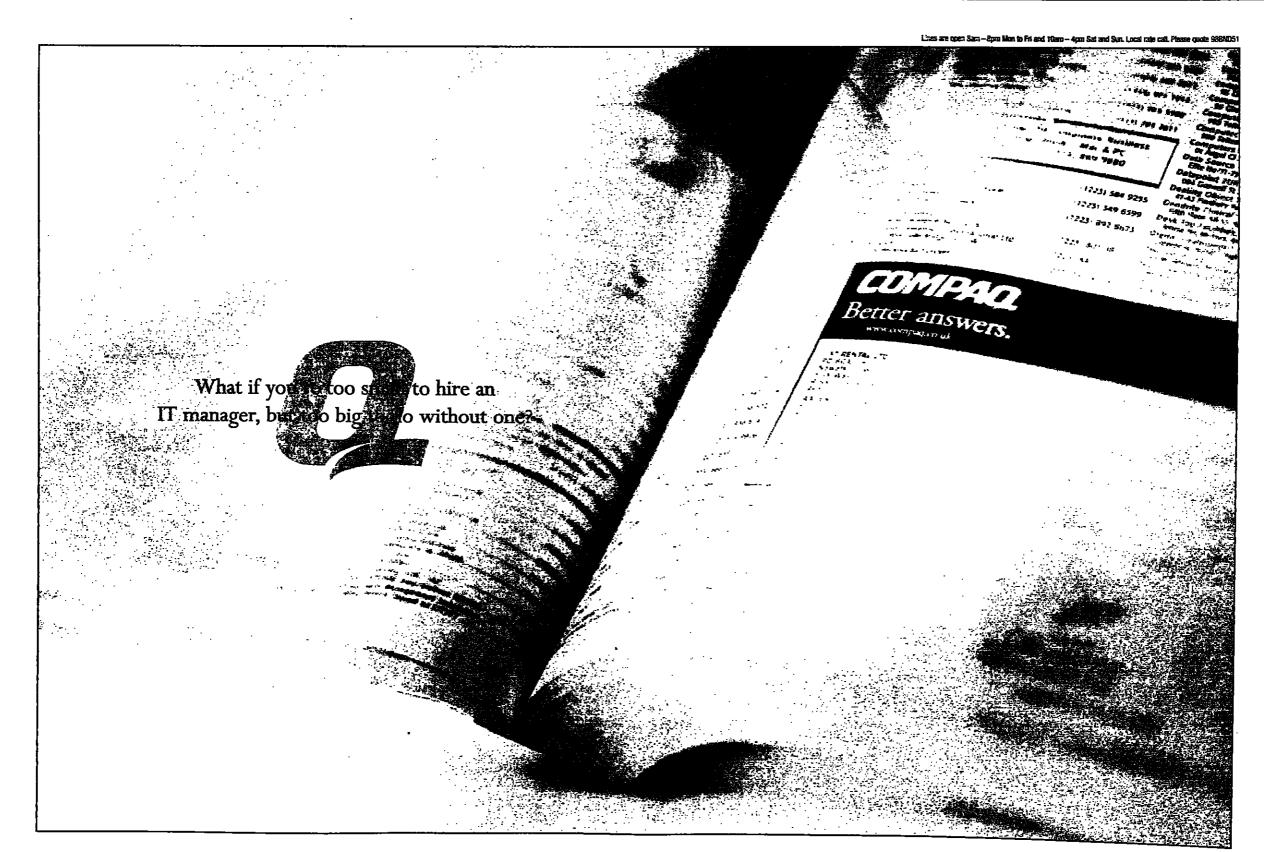
Most of the 2,400 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel are now on hunger strike, and sympathy marches are leading to increased violence throughout. the West Bank. Among the casualties was a nephew of Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, who was shot in the head by Israeli troops.

Mr Erekat said yesterday. Doctors told me today that Nasser is clinically dead.

"I hold the government of Netanyahu responsible for the escalation against the Palestinian people and for suspending peace moves."

Mr Netanyahu says he will not release prisoners with "blood on their hands", but the Israeli prison service says that only 430 of the Palestinians in jail are in this category.

Mr Netanyahu has tried to keep his coalition together by presenting the Wye deal as a triumph over the Palestinians. That has fuelled Palestinian protests and angered the United States, which has called for both sides to implement the terms agreed in October.



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Jean-Yves le Gallou, a supporter of the NF rebel Bruno Megret, speaking to reporters in Paris yesterday

Le Pen accuses NF rivals of 'racism'

THE TIME BOMB of personal By JOHN LICHFIELD hatreds, rivalries and suspicions at the heart of the ultraright National Front finally threatens to explode this week. with far-reaching consequences for French politics.

An atmosphere of fear reigned at the NF headquarters in Saint Cloud yesterday, as leading members of the party turned their well-honed powers of vituperation and paranoia against one another. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the party's president, stalked the corridors, suspending senior officials he suspected of supporting his rival, Bruno Megret.

After months of submerged warfare, Mr Le Pen, 70, has publicly accused Mr Megret of leading "a minority of extremists, even racists" in a putsch against him (the first time that Mr Le Pen has admitted that any part of his party is racist).

The NF secretary-general, Bruno Gollnisch - a Le Pen loyin Paris

alist - said on television that the party was the victim of a "takeover bid by foreign powers", including the "American secret senior NF members. services", Mr Megret, 49, may be many things, including a racist, but it is difficult to picture him as an agent of the CIA

His followers, far from cowed, are pushing for an emergency congress of the party in February. The rebels believe that if the grass roots could be consulted, they could end Mr Le Pen's 26-year reign as "Chef" of the most powerful extreme nationalist party in western Europe. More likely, the far right - a fragile alliance of mutually loathing groups - is about to split into separate movements. This would give the centre-right parties a golden opportunity to reconquer the ground lost since Mr Le Pen's breakthrough in 1984.

ered pace since a turbulent meeting of the NF national council at the weekend, when Air Le Pen was booed by some

One leading Mégret supporter, Pierre Vial, compared Mr Le Pen to Louis XVI: An outof-touch monarch, unable to comprehend the insurgent forces around him.

Mr Vial was ejected from the

party on Monday. Another leading official, Serge Martinez, was ordered to prepare a hit-list of local activists and officials who supported Mr Mégret. He refused and was ordered out of the party by Mr Le Pen in person as he walked down a corridor in the NF headquarters. In a press conference. Mr Martinez said a "witch-hunt" was in progress and the "very survival of the NF is at stake".

Mr Mégret is unlikely to

Megret's supporters has gath- He is estimated to enjoy the support of 60 out of 100 members of the central committee and 17 out of 40 members of the party's political bureau, as well as the majority on several regional councils of the party.

Mr Megret's supporters mostly young or middle aged, believe that he can move the party out of the ideological ghetto created by Mr Le Pen and begin to form electoral alliances that would bring them. and some of their extreme nationalist and xenophobic ideas,

Mr Le Pen and his supporters, including most of the party's old guard but also many younger front activists, accuse Mr Megret of being prepared to exchange the party's ideological purity for a few cabinet posts. Most of all, perhaps, the struggle is about Mr Le Pen's refusal to accept that the NF is no longer his personal fieldom.

Dutch prepare air base for Lockerbie case

LIBYA'S ASSEMBLY met yesterday to endorse a final decision on handing over the two Lockerbie bombing suspects, as the Dutch government pressed on with plans to prepare a windwept morsel of the Nether-ands as sovereign British territory where the long-

awaited trial is due to be held. The Dutch plan to turn the old United States military base at Zeist, six miles from Utrecht, agreement is where the two agreement that the trial of those suspected of bombing the Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland 10 years ago would be conducted under Scottish law and on British soil.

The compromise proposal iurisdiction and meets the demand of Libya's leader, Muam- emerged from a visit to Liby place in a neutral country.

The Zeist military base consists of little more than a clutch bunker and a concrete military clared after a meeting with hospital on a mound, all ringed Colonel Gaddafi by barbed wire. The hospital was built by the US Air Force, wich was stationed there incoughout the Cold War until the early Nineties.

bomb-proof complex located beneath the old hospital. They riving at the emergency the transfer of the land. department. The high level of security may answer Libya's handover of the two suspects lies concern for the suspects' security in the Netherlands. Libya General People's Congress. says it fears they could be kid-

napped and taken to the US. The US and Britain are believed to be ready to pay at least Tripoli, said the Lockerbie case

By Marcus Tanner

several hundred security guards, military personnel, media and relatives of those killed in the bombing.

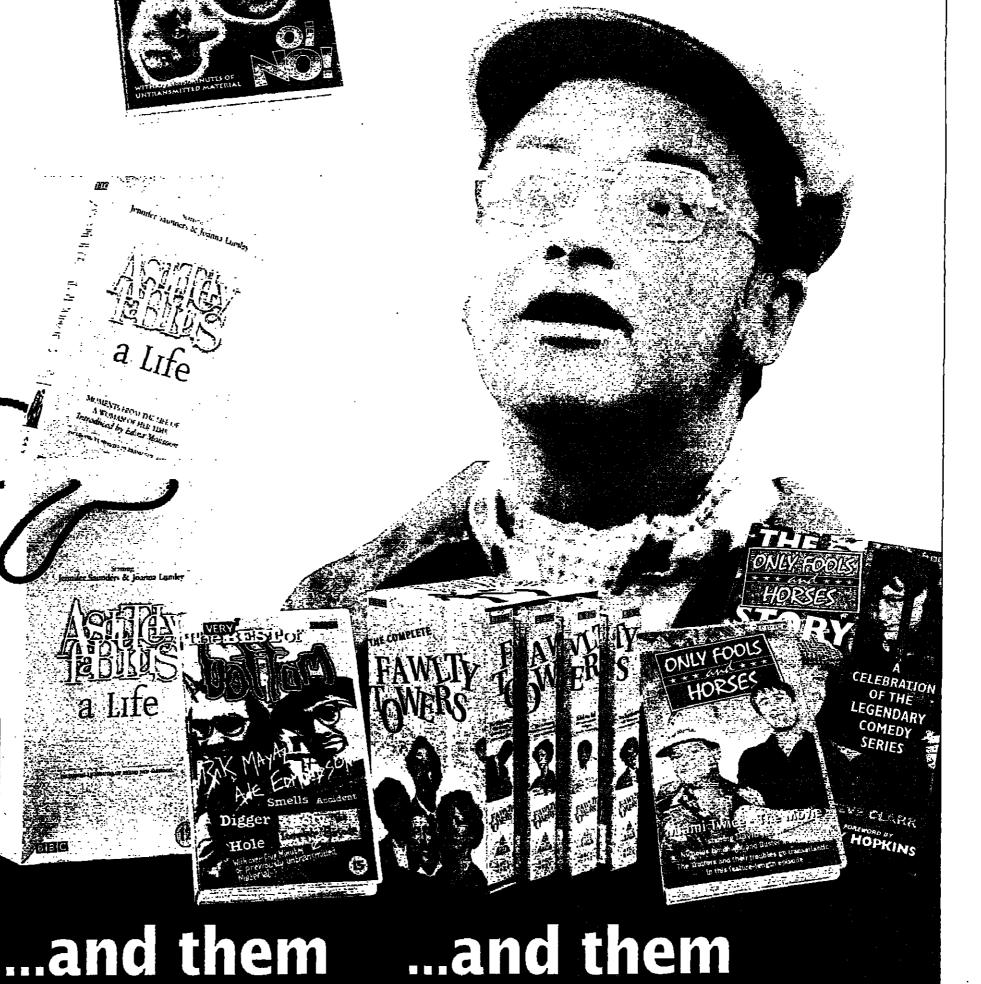
One sign that Libya may be serious about handing over the men was an announcement that Libyan lawyers were raising money for the defence of the two men. An outstanding disinto a British court to fulfil an men, if found guilty, would serve their sentence.

Libya has always refused to hand over the two alleged intelligence agents, Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, arguing that they would not receive a fair trial in provides the legal fig-leaf that Britain or the US. But last he trial be held under Scottish weekend, the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, mar Gaddafi, for a trial to take seemingly confident he had finally concluded negotiations on the two suspects' surrender. "We are on our way to resolvof prefabs, an underground ing the issue," Mr Annan de-

Earlier this year, Libya won the agreement of Britain and the US for a trial before Scottish judges on neutral Dutch territory. The US and Britain have If the Libyan leader does stepped up demands recently agree to hand over the two men, for the surrender of the two men they will be housed in the to take place before the 10th anniversary of the bombing on 21 December. Britain and the will be driven into a covered dri-veway created for casualties ar-ment in September permitting

The final decision on the with the Libyan assembly, the which opened its session in the coastal city of Sirte yesterday. Observers in the Libyan capital, £60m to convert the camp into was likely to be raised when fora complex capable of holding eign affairs were discussed.

Only me...



PRODUCT RECALL PRINCES 2279 CHOPPED TOMATOES IN TOMATO JUICE

ANNA SOMERS COCKS

Why do the Italians have such difficulty in deciding how to protect the world's

most beautiful city?

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 5

Princes is taking the precautionary measure of recalling cans of Princes 227g Chopped Tomatoes in Tomato Juice. Tests have shown that some of this product contains higher than acceptable levels of tin.

The cans involved have the letters 'LJ' at the beginning of the code shown on one of the can ends.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Members of the public should dispose of cans of this product. Before doing so, remove the label from the pack and then send it to Princes Foods, Consumer Services Department, Royal Liver Building, Liverpool

L3 1NX to obtain a full refund, including postage. We naturally apologise for any inconvenience caused.

If you have any queries, please call our Customer Services Department on 0151 242 5776.

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BBC Worldwide

Germany and US split over role for Nato

atlantic defence alliance opened up yesterday as Germany called for a revision of the Nato nuclear weapons doctrine and Washington's proposals for a new global role for Nato ran into a wall of European oppo-

Joshka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, used a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels to challenge Nato to put aside Cold War taboos and renounce the first use of nuclear weapons. The call has already been rejected by the United States and yesterday it was eign Secretary, Robin Cook, representing one of Nato's three nuclear powers. He said he saw "no need for a change in the nuclear posture of Nato".

A defiant Mr Fischer, making his debut at Nato, not only repeated the proposal but reacted to Washington's disapproval by defending the right of any member of the alliance to call for debate. Reminding Washington that it does not have a monopoly on ideas and that the Cold War is over, he said: "Reflection has never been something which was banned at Nato. That has been one of the alliance's strengths and should remain so."

Senior Nato officials were polite but dismissive of the idea. One said that the nuclear deterrent combined with conventional weapons had preserved the peace in Europe "for the longest period since the Holy Roman Empire". There would have to be convincing military reasons for undermining its deterrent value, he stressed.

Germany and France, meanwhile, poured cold water on American proposals to radically broaden Nato's scope, while Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, dismissed their suspicions as

in Brussels

gic concept" for Nato that went beyond the traditional role of collective territorial defence. Washington was trying to turn the alliance into a global policeman. At the same time Ms Albright sketched out a vision for the future development of Nato that was sharply at odds with that held in European

In it Nato would remain committed to the collective defence of the territory of its 16 - soon to be 19 - members, but sharply dismissed by the For- it would also take on new tasks and make itself capable of



Joshka Fischer: Called for reflection in Nato

meeting what she called "a wide range of threats to common interests". To some European ears this smacked of Washington trying to enlist its allies to further its global security ambitions, but Ms Albright said that because the world had changed Nato must also turn its attention to such threats as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The US wants the new Nato blueprint to include such capabilities as an intelligence She denied that by tabling clearing house on nuclear, bio-

protect the allies from attacks by such weapons.

The US would also like to see Nato sweep away any obstacles to operating anywhere in the world if its interests are under threat, even without the authority of the UN Security Council. Kosovo and Bosnia are being cited as examples of the new forms of threat. But the French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine, joined Germany in insisting that Nato's threat of military action in Kosovo, which was activated without a UN Security Council resolution, was an exception to the rule, not a precedent for the future.

The French reaction yesterday reflects the concern in Europe that the US is railroading its allies into military solutions such as the controversial cruise missile attack on a suspected chemical weapons factory in Sudan, carried out in response to US embassy bombings in two African cities last August.

Reminding the Americans that collective defence would have to remain the foundation of Nato, Mr Vedrine said the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was just "one risk among many" and Nato was just "one actor among many". He also insisted that specific UN endorsement would have to remain the basis for any Nato activities.

Mr Cook appeared to line up behind the Americans, advising against artificial geographical limits to Nato's activities. It was increasingly clear, he said, that Nato would be drawn into security and crisis management in conflicts in areas that went beyond the strict territorial borders of the alliance.

Yesterday's meeting foreshadows difficulties in reaching agreement on a new blueprint to take Nato into the 21st century, likely to arise when the alliance's heads of government



Astronaut Jerry Ross pausing from his work on the space station modules Zarya (top) and Unity (below), to take a picture of the Earth from his perch at the end of the 50ft robot arm of the space shuttle Endeavour, 240 miles above the planet

Lunar fake was real chip off the rock

WHEN AGENTS from United BY DAVID USBORNE States Customs placed a phony classified in USA Today seeking chunks of moon rock for sale they were hoping to break open the black market in fake lunar memorabilia. Imagine their surprise when a man surfaced offering them the real thing an actual moon rock for sale for being sold illicitly on the US \$5m (£3m).

The minuscule pebble, encased in plastic and only 12mm by 9mm, has now been seized by the authorities and the putative vendor, identified as \$5 million". Alan Rosen of Florida, finds himself in no small amount of ment was placed as part of Op-

in New York

Honduras, which was given the rock as a personal gift from President Richard Nixon a quarter of a century ago. This is the first time we are aware that moon rock was

> market," said Raphael Lopez, special agent in charge of the Miami Customs department. "The moon rock was offered for sale to Customs agents for

eration Lunar Eclipse, which is The seizure has also visited a long-running undercover ex- to the moon. Apollo 17 lifted off contact the former commander

Nasa, the Post Office and US Customs. Its original intent was to squash an apparently thriving market in fake lunar

and bits of Nasa rockets.

He could face smuggling The newspaper advertise-

the people of the world. items, including phony rock

This real piece of rock was apparently bought by Mr Rosen from a retired Honduran military officer in Honduras more than a year ago. It may be, however, that Mr Rosen's only crime is that he imported the piece into the United States without declaring to Customs.

The piece was originally col-

of astronauts collected samples of rock that were dedicated to

The launch of Apollo 17 was witnessed by students from 78 different nations and the government of each country, including Honduras, received a piece on the rocket's return.

In the course of Operation Lunar Eclipse. agents were told that several of those governments had since sold their pieces of rock for prices ranging from \$5m to \$10m.

In his effort to ensure the authenticity of his purchase, lected by the last Apollo mission Mr Rosen, 60, went so far as to

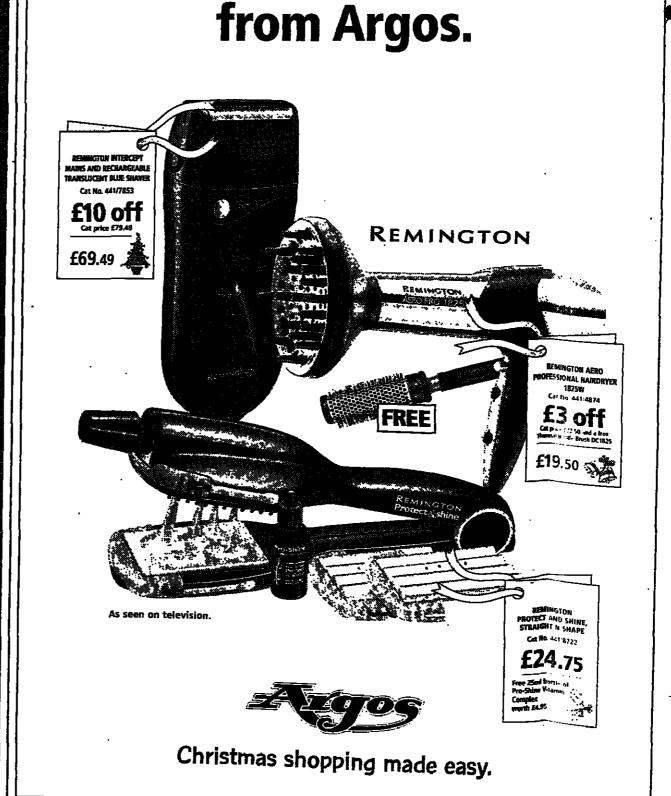
exactly 26 years ago. Its team gene Cernan, about a year

"I found it very strange because there isn't anybody who's got a piece of the rock, including any of us who went to the moon," Mr Cernan said this

week. The rock was collected by Commander Cernan and his team in the Taurus Littrow Valley of the moon.

It is believed to be 3.9 billion years old. Randy Cook. a special investigator for Nasa, acknowledges that there may be several other chunks of legitimate lunar rock now on the market. "There are some moon rocks in private hands," {





Another 3 great offers

Clinton's defence starts in earnest

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton's By MARY DEJEVSKY Chances of escaping a trial by seeate, the last stage of the impeachment process, increased sharply yesterday after the White House changed its tactics and sent a crack team of lawyers and constitutional experts to Capitol Hill to tackle head on the

charges against him. This was the first time since formal impeachment hearings began that Mr Clinton's camp had dealt directly with the charges against him, and the plodding debate in the judiciary committee at once sprang to life.

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in Washington

The President's team, led by the recently appointed White House special counsel, Gregory Craig, went further in admitting wrongdoing by Mr Clinton than ever before, establishing that Mr Clinton's conduct in the Monica Lewinsky affair was "morally wrong". However, they drew a clear distinction between "immoral conduct" and "illegal acts". Taking the matter of per-

In his report on the investigation of the Lewinsky affair and the judiciary committee, the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr had said there was abundant evidence that Mr Clinton had lied under oath about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky. But he noted that it was not for him to judge whether the evidence would stand up in a court of law. Yesterday, Mr Craig adjury, Mr Craig said that the evi- mitted that Mr Clinton's evi-

sustain a criminal prosecution, much less impeachment". incomplete, misleading, even maddening", but, he insisted, "it was not perjury".

Until yesterday, the White subsequently in his evidence to House had trained its fire chiefly on Mr Starr and his investigation. This was the tack chosen by Mr Clinton's personal lawyer, David Kendall, when he questioned Mr Starr in the judiciary committee last month. Mr Craig, however, dealt with each of the three potential charges against Mr Clinton perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power - and dedence as it stood "could not dence under oath was "evasive, nied them all on his behalf.

charge - that Mr Clinton abused also provide a detailed dossier said. to aides in the expectation that One purpose of the new dethey would unwittingly lie under oath - Mr Craig argued that Mr the impression of hair-splitting Clinton's motive was not to arrogance that so offended the 'mislead the grand jury' but "to committee last week when Mr

impeachment," he said. House of Representatives judidays allotted to the defence. Mr

his presidential power by lying of the President's arguments. fence tactics is clearly to counter protect his family". "This is not Clinton sent his written responses to their 81 questions.

an abuse of office that justifies Introducing his arguments. Mr Craig's presentation to the Mr Craig also conveyed what could have been interpreted as ciary committee opened the two an olive branch from Mr Clinton. "The President wants Clinton's case will be summed up everyone to know... that he is today by the chief White House genuinely sorry for the pain and es called yesterday hinted at an-

On perhaps the trickiest counsel, Charles Ruff, who will damage that he has caused," he other possible strategy. Bruce

Yesterday's arguments are unlikely to change the disposition of the committee to approve the formal charges against Mr Clinton. They could, however, sway members of the House of Representatives which would have to vote to forward the articles of impeachment to the Senate. This vote scheduled for late this week or

early next - is extremely close. Even if that vote goes against Mr Clinton, one of the witness-

Ackerman, a Yale law professor, argued that the impeachment process should meet the same fate as legislation that falls between the two Houses of Congress in the period between an outgoing and incoming congress: it should be considered dead. A "lame-duck" congress, he said, "has the power [to impeach)... but a lame-duck bill loses its constitutional force". If the White House chose to challenge the process on that basis, the legal arguments could continue for many a month to come.



Sharks are something we can't control, they have the upper hand in a one-on-one encounter'

Sharks hardly ever attack swimmers. Unless...

FOR A nine-year-old, Willie Tellasmon was a decent swimmer. But he should never have ventured 40 yards offshore on a refeet before his stepfather re-

alised something was wrong. The boy could have been caught by one of the local "rip tides," currents that strong adult swimmers often find impossible to fight He could have had his neck twisted by a big wave. He wasn't.

Willie was dragged underwater and torn to death by a tiger shark. That made him the Attack File (ISAF), a body that first shark fatality near an American beach in 22 years.

son, sensed that something was wrong when he saw the boy's arms flailing. "When I got to him, he was looking at me, but not saying anything. Maybe he was in shock," Mr Wilson said. "I reached for his fingers. I touched them. He was pulling me, too. I didn't realise it was a shark. I thought it was a wave."

Not until the following day did they find the boy's body, missing his head and arms. Officials in this popular Atlantic resort, a short drive from Disneyworld, sought to play down the tragedy, billing it as a chance in a million.

They criticised Willie's family for letting him swim in an Elasmobranch (sharks and re-

AMERICAN TIMES VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

cent Saturday picnic here, area not under the surveil- lated species) Society It often reaching a water depth of 10 lance of lifeguards and for al-works with the Shark Trust, lowing him to go out too far alone. Beaches here are regularly closed to swimmers if lifeguards see shark, barracuda or other predators.

"Always stay in groups since sharks are more likely to attack a solitary individual," says the first of a dozen "commandments" issued by the Floridabased International Shark collates information on shark attacks worldwide. Its director, His stepfather, Sonny Wil- Professor George Burgess, is something of a shark maniac who first got the bug when he saw the film Jaws. But his aim is not to kill sharks. It is to save

> "The real story is not Shark Bites Man. It is Man Bites Shark," he says. "They are extremely susceptible to overfishing. The real story is shark conservation." ISAF's investigations are aimed at working out why and how sharks attack, with the aim not only of preventing attacks but of shedding light on sharks' habits to con-

ISAF is a joint project involving the University of Florida and the American

which was set up in Britain last year. ISAF asks victims' families to fill in questionnaires, describing such things as the swimmers' clothes, the water temperature and the tide.

In his office at the Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, Florida, Professor Burgess is surrounded by shark memorabilia. There are pictures, posters, toys, real shark's jaws, sweets shaped like sharks. He has a collection of shark-related beer, such as Hammerhead Red from Canada and Razor's Edge from Australia, as well as boxes of shark cartilage powder sold in health stores as a supposed

treatment for advanced cancer. His files begin with reports of shark attacks in Roman times and go up to the case of Willie Tellasmon.

"Fatalities are extremely rare in Florida but, of course, by lightning than by a shark. what was disturbing this time was that it was a child.

"If he was flailing his arms, the shark may have been attracted by the movements. They use the standard predatory strategy of any animal,

going after the weak or infirm.

"People are fascinated by

sharks," said Professor Burgess, 48. "We probably fear shark attack more than hurricanes or earthquakes. Tigers or elephants can usually be controlled with a well-placed shot. But sharks are something we can't control, they have the upper hand in a one-on-one encounter."

The last time a shark killed anyone in the United States was off the Florida panhandle in 1988 but that was a deep water swimmer who had dived off a boat. The last American shoreline swimmer killed in a shark attack was in 1976, the vear after Jaws was made.

"You have a much better chance of winning the Florida lottery than of encountering a shark on our coastline," Professor Burgess likes to say.

From his two-ceiling-high filing cabinets, he also produces statistics showing that more people in Florida were killed by alligators than by sharks over the past 50 years and that Americans are 30 times more likely to be killed

"Take 1987, when there were only 13 sharkbite injuries in the US," he says. "In New York City alone that year, there were 8,064 cases of dog bites human, 1,587 cases of human bites human and 95 cases of squirrel bites human."

PHIL DAVISON

Democrats arrested as China hails its human rights record hails its human rights record

THE CHINESE government has again demonstrated its limited in Hong Kong sense of irony by announcing it is to launch the first television series on human rights, just as more dissidents were rounded up for trying to form an opposition party. The television series has been launched to coincide with the 50th anvigwing, as it will consist main- detained last Saturday.

ly interviews with government officials and academics. known leader of the belea-Having basked in the glow of visits from American, British in court in the eastern city of and French leaders, who all Hangzhou on December 17 on stated that the Chinese human charges of "incitement to overrights record was improving, the government has bided its the possibility of a life sentime before cracking down on tence for trying to register the the Chinese Democratic Party. party with the authorities. The party is a small organisation but one that seems to have more than 100 dissidents are some form of nationwide network and has had the audacity to apply for legal recognition to Mr Wang. In doing so, they under the terms of the Chinese risk missing the first of 24 tele-

man Rights and Democrat-next three months. .' Movement in China, based in Hong Kong, said yesterday Daily newspaper, said the prothat the latest arrest of party leaders brought in Zhang Baoqin, 41, a founder of the party's on Marxist human rights conbranch in Fujian province, cepts and basic knowledge which faces Taiwan.

licemen who broke into his house and seized documents. Six days ago he launched a protest, with four other party members, to try to secure the release of other party members including Xu Wenli, the best niversary of the United Na- known, who was arrested last tions Universal Declaration of week. Two dissidents who also Human Rights. However, it is protested against the arrests. unlikely to become compulsive in Liaoning province, were also

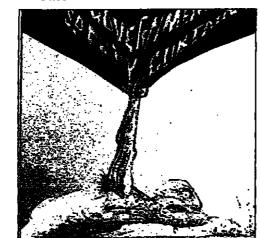
> Wang Youcai, another wellguered party. is due to appear throw state power". He faces

The Hong Kong centre says expected to make their way to Hangzhou to give their support vision programmes, each of 15 The Information Centre of minutes, to be aired over the

The state controlled Wenhui grammes were intended to differences between Chinese International Covenant on Civil about human rights".

THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

The Independent is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary



Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realised.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

"promote universal education and Western concepts of rights, and Political Rights, but it has

and the future of human rights yet to be ratified by China's par-The Chinese government is not yet subject to the moni-The centre stated that Mr The paper stated the pro- won considerable internation- toring incumbent on signatories

liament. This means that China Zhang was arrested by 20 po- grammes would emphasise the al kudos by recently signing the who have ratified the treaty.

Dalai Lama hails universal principles

THE DALAI LAMA said yester- By JOHN LICHFIELD day that human rights were in Paris truly universal and not in conflict with so-called "Asian values". He was speaking at the open-

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ing of a two-day summit in Paris Asia and the Third World and of "human rights defenders". part of the celebration of the 50th iniversary of the universal laration of human rights.

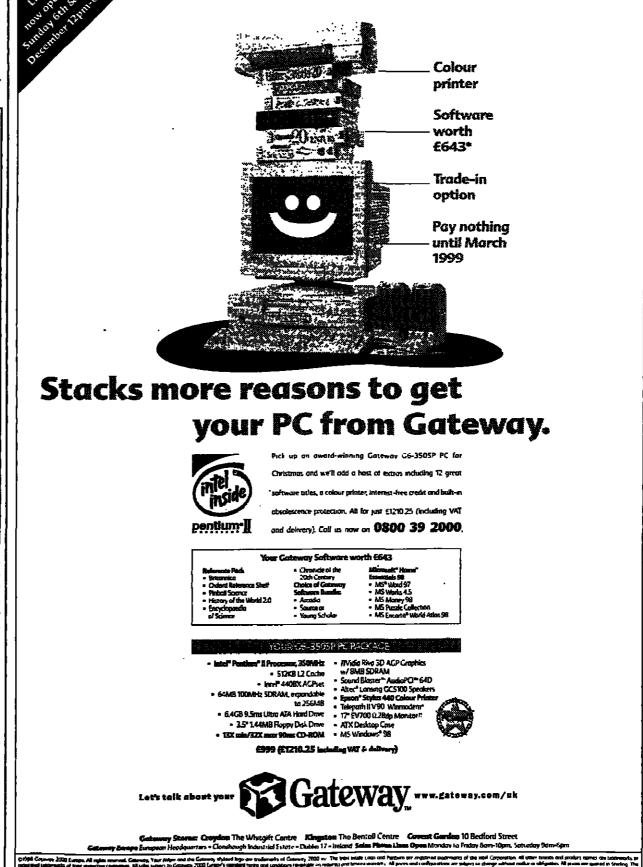
The Tibetan spiritual leader, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, said he saw "no

contradiction between the need the paramount need to respect the dignity and rights of human beings. Although some Asian leaders suggested that the values enshrined in the declaration of human rights were not be exported to Asia or the developing world, "I do not share this opinion", he said.

for economic development" in a hunch for Nobel prize winners at the Elysée Palace, from independence. which his supporters say he was originally excluded to avoid upsetting Peking. China has Summit, uniting rights activists duly complained to France from around the globe, passed about his presence in Paris for a resolution calling on the Govthe official and unofficial "Western values", which should human rights celebrations.

Tibetan leader said yesterday that he was "optimistic" that The Dalai Lama went on to there could be progress in his country towards autonomy, not

The 350 delegates to the Human Rights Defenders' ernment to extradite General Augusto Pinochet to Spain.



BUSINESS

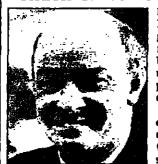
BRIEFING

Deutsche launches \$1.5bn bond

DEUTSCHE BANK yesterday launched the largest-ever euro-dominated bond to help finance its takeover of rival Bankers Trust. The German bank said it was issuing a bond with a volume of 1.3bn euros (\$1.5bn), convertible into stock in Allianz, the insurance company in which Deutsche Bank has a 9.4 per cent stake. If all the bonds were fully converted, Deutsche would reduce its Allianz stake by 1.7

The announcement came as officials in the United States sought to delay the creation of the world's biggest bank. New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi called on Monday for a delay in the merger until the Holocaust claims involving Deutsche Bank were settled. Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress, said he believed the merger would not go through until restitution was made.

London Clubs seeks UK licences



LONDON CLUBS International, the gaming group, is set to apply for new casino licences in the UK over the next few months as the Government presses ahead with the deregulation of the market.

The news came as the company, led by chief executive Alan Goodenough (pictured), reported a sharp drop in interim profits to £10.9m from

£14.3m a year ago. London Clubs said earnings were hit hard by the "unexpected and significant" increase in gaming duty introduced in the last Budget. A fall in the number of punters from the Far East as a result of that region's financial crisis, and the strength of sterling, also took their toll on profits, the company added.

Saudi action call boosts oil prices

OIL PRICES - which on Monday sank below \$10 barrel for the first time since 1986 - edged upwards again yesterday after Saudi Arabia called for action to prop up the market. In London, the benchmark Brent crude price rose by more than 50 cents a barrel after Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia told Gulf leaders that they should not hesitate to take measures to shore up the oil price.

Separately, the International Energy Agency revealed in its monthly oil report that growth in world oil demand appeared to have stalled in September and October.

FTSE 100	DOW JONES	NIKKE
650	9100	15100
5550	9000	14700
92 T F 64 T	B800	14500 W T F M T

INDICES									
lodes	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk bigh S	2 wk fow Yi	eld[%]			
FTSE 100	5615.70	39.00	0.70	6183.00	4599.00	3.35			
FTSE 250	4757.70	4.20	0.09	5970.00	4247.00	4.86			
FTSE 350	2657.70	15.80	0.60	2969.00	2210 00	3.58			
FTSE All Share	2565 57	14.73	0.58	2886.52	2143.53	3 53			
FTSE SmallCap	2022.80	3.20	0.16	2793.80	1834.40	4.15			
FTSE Fledgling	1124.70	-0.30	-0.03	1517.00	1046.00	0.00			
FTSE AIM	800.30	-1.80	-0.22	1146.00	761.00	0.00			
FTSE EBLOC 100	933.40	1,47	0.16						
Dow Jones	9066.35	-2.32	-0.03	9380.00	7400.00	1.65			
Nikke	14808.20	84.71	0.58	17353.00	12788.00	0.99			
Hang Seng	10351.08	-77.74	-0.75	11926.16	6544.79	3.01			
Dax	4699.34	-14.62	-0.31	6217.00	3833.00	1.89			

SHORT STERLING	ORT STERLING UK 10 YEAR GILT	
6 90	4 66	5 05
670	4.62	5 03
6.50	4.58	5 01
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MONEY MARKET RATES					1	BONI	YIELD:	5
Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.51	-1.23	5.98	-1.91	4.58	-1.90	4,44	-1.96
US	5.24	-0.69	5.06	-1.03	4.65		5.03	
Japan	0.46	-0.26	0.53	-0.21	1.16	-0.65	1.86	-0.55
Germany	3.41	-0.35	3.27	-0.82	3.90	-1.48	4.75	-1.18

\$/ E	DM/£	¥/£
1.675	2.790	202
1 665	2.780	200
1.655	2.770	198
1 645 W T F M T	7.760 W T F M T	196 W T F M T

POUND				DOI	LAR		
	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago		at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6542	+0.17c	1.6451	Sterling	0.6045	-0.06p	0.6078
D-Mark	2.7638	-0.90pf	2.9743	D-Mark	1.6715	-0.70pf	1.7987
Yen	197.72	-¥0.12	215.94	Yen	119.54	-¥- 0.19	130.58
E index	99.80	0.00	104.00	\$ index	106.00	0.00	108.70

Brent Oil ((\$) 9.82	0.24	17.80	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Dec
Gold (\$)								Dec
Silver (5)	4.78				Rates			
www.bloomberg.com/uk					SOUR	CE: E	LOOM	** 5pm BERG

Australia (S)	2.5698	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.04
Austria (schillings)	18.88	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0248
Belgium (francs)	55.51	New Zealand (S)	3.0322
Canada (S)	2.4721	Norway (krone)	12.06
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7946	Portugal (escudos)	273.34
Denmark (krone)	10.28	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0095
Finland (markka)	8.1949	Singapore (S)	2.6053
France (francs)	9.0172	Spain (pesetas)	228.45
Germany (marks)	2.6985	South Africa (rands)	9.5060
Greece (drachma)	452.01	Sweden (krone)	13.12
Hong Kong (\$)	12.41	Switzerland (francs)	2.2117
ireland (punts)	1.0803	Thalland (bahts)	54.00
Indian (rupees)	63.20	Turkey (firasi)	483088
Israel (shekels)	6.3913	USA (S)	1.6126
Italy (lira)	2674		
Japan (yen)	194.27	Rates for indication purpo	ises only

Source Thomas Cook

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Malaysia (ringgits)

Malta (Ilra)

Zeneca in £40bn merger talks with Sweden's Astra

ZENECA, the pharmaceutical By FRANCESCO GUERRERA market value of around £18bn, giant, last night announced while Zeneca's capitalisation is that it was in advanced talks over a £40bn merger with its Swedish rival Astra.

In a terse statement after the market closed, the two groups said that they were in discussions which could lead to "a possible combination of the two companies in a merger of equals' transaction". The announcement confirmed earlier market rumours which had triggered a £1 rise in Zeneca's share price to £25.20

UK's third largest drug-maker,

and Astra, Europe's seventh largest, would create one of the world's biggest pharmaceutical groups with yearly sales of more than \$8.3bn (£5.1bn) and a strong drugs' portfolio.

Sources close to the companies said that the deal was likely to be structured as a nopremium merger because the two groups were of similar size. "No company is buying the other." they said.

Astra, the maker of the anti-A deal between Zeneca, the ulcer compound Losec, the K's third largest drug-maker, world's best-selling drug, has a

around £22bn. The sources said that negotiations were on-going and the merger could be concluded as early as this week.

A Zeneca/Astra combination would create a drug company with a strong presence in a number of important clinical areas, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, asthma and pain control. The enlarged group's two blockbusters would be Astra's Losec and Zeneca's Novaldex, a leading product for breast cancer.

Industry analysts said the

had a good fit and were unlikely to pose an anti-trust issue.

Both companies were starting to move backwards from a competitive standpoint and needed to do something to address that issue," according to David Molowa, an analyst with Bear Sterns.

Zeneca and Astra have been under mounting pressure to link up with a rival to compete with industry giants such as Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham of the UK, Pfizer and Merck of the US and the recently-formed Hoechst-

two companies' drug portfolios Rhone Phoulenc Franco-Ger-

man group.

The Swedish group's need for a merger was compounded by the threat of a sharp fall in earnings from 2001 when the patents for Losec begin expiring. The Astra chief executive Haakan Morgen cleared the decks for a possible merger in June, when it scrapped a joint venture with Merck to sell

Losec in the US. Yesterday's announcement put an end to years of speculation over the future of Zeneca. The British group has long been seen as a prime takeover

target despite protestations by Sir David Barnes, the chief executive, that Zeneca had the drugs and the finances to remain independent.

It would come as a blow for companies such as Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline, considered to be two likely suitors, following the collapse of their merger talks.

It is not the first time the two companies have talked about a tie-up. Mr Morgen and Sir David are believed to have held informal talks in March, which were terminated by the UK

City urges full 1-point cut in rates

SPECULATION IN the City By LEA PATERSON about another substantial cut in UK interest rates reached fever pitch yesterday, with some traders betting that the Bank of England could even decide to cut rates by as much as a full percentage point.

A combination of a gloomy retail survey released late on Monday night and a call by the Financial Times Lex column for a one-point cut fuelled the rate hopes, analysts said.

A separate survey released by BDO Stoy Hayward and the Centre for Economics and Business Research also added to the pressure on the Bank's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which be-points I think sterling will get gins its two-day meeting this af-

BDO's finding that British business expects the UK econthe middle of next year helped keep the FTSE 100 in positive territory despite a weak start on Wall Street.

December short sterling jumped as traders gambled on a significant rate cut tomorrow, and the pound slid almost a pfennig against the German mark to close at DM2.761. However, many analysts

cautioned that the market was being overly optimistic about the interest-rate outlook, and warned that there could be widespread disappointment when the Bank announces its decision at midday tomorrow. Despite the feverish specu-

lation on the trading floors, most economists still expect the Bank to move rates down by just a quarter of a percentage point to 6.5 per cent.

Neil Parker, treasury econland, warned: "I see great dose of the same medicine."

scope for the markets being disappointed on Thursday and not much for them being pleasantly surprised."

Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "I still think a 25 basis point [0.25 percentage point] cut is the most likely scenario. There's a lot of speculation about a 100 basis point [1 point] move, but I think that is wide of the mark."

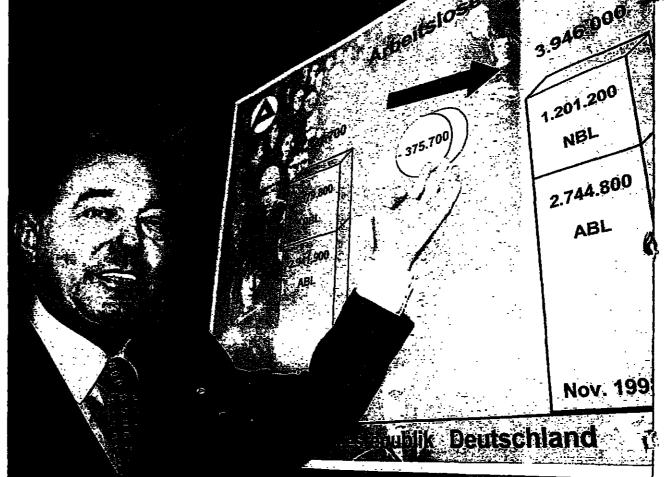
Nick Stamenkovic, chief economist at Bank Austria Creditanstalt Futures, said: "The markets have factored in a 50 basis point cut tomorrow. If [the Bank] cuts by 25 basis a lift and equities will be disappointed. No cut at all could be disastrous for equities."

at the start of last month there has been a series of gloomy economic data. The UK's trade deficit hit a record high and official figures have offered evidence of tumbling retail sales and manufacturing output.

Anecdotal survey data have painted a bleak picture of the economic outlook. According to business surveys, even the UK's hitherto buoyant service sector is feeling the pinch.

Last week's unexpected cut in interest rates across Europe to just 3 per cent has also helped strengthen the clamour for the third fall in UK rates in as many months. Ken Jackson, general sec-

retary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union. said: "UK interest rates are twice as high as most of Europe. If UK manufacturing is omist at Royal Bank of Scot- to compete abroad we need a mittee yesterday, the ECB



Since the Bank announced In Nuremberg yesterday, German Labour Office president Bernhard Jagoda revealed unexpectedly poor unan unexpectedly large rate cut employment figures, which fuelled fears of a sharper-than-expected slowdown on the Continent

European confidence falling

THE PRESIDENT of the Euro- By STEPHEN CASTLE pean Central Bank has cited faltering European consumer confidence as the reason for recent interest-rate cuts in the euro zone. Speaking in Brussels. Wim Duisenberg played down the risks of deflation, but strongly defended the cuts made last week.

Mr Duisenberg said: "One of the main motivations behind the recent decision to lower interest rates was a faltering of confidence, predominantly in the business area, and in some countries' private households."

Addressing the European Parliament's economic compresident said there was no in Brussels AND LEA PATERSON

risk of deflation, even though euro zone inflation was just 1 per cent in October. "We see no risk of that developing into an inflation figure that might be called deflationary," he said.

Mr Duisenberg said euro zone economic growth was expected to slow to 2.4 per cent in 1999 from 2.8 per cent this year, but that the general view was that the slowdown would be temporary.

"It is expected that growth might slightly accelerate again in the course of the year 2000. he said, adding however that been expecting a fall in Jagoda

such a forecast had to be treat- unemployment of 30,000. ed with care.

Strengthening the case for interest-rate cuts, Mr Duisenberg pointed to Ireland's ability to reduce the cost of lending while controlling inflation. The country's progress was "remarkable and also gratifying,"

Mr Duisenberg's comments coincided with the release of unexpectedly poor German unemployment figures, which fuelled fears of a sharper-thanexpected slowdown on the Continent. According to official figures, Germany's jobless total rose by 4,000 in Novem-

ber to 4.11 million. Analysts had

The poor figures underlyed

the scale of the problem facing Chancellor Gerhard Schroder with his Alliance for Jobs initiative, analysts said. The initiative, launched on

Monday, is intended to tackle Germany's immense structural unemployment problem and bridge the wide gap between employers and unions.

Bernhard Jagoda, president of the government's Labour Office, welcomed the Alliance but said there were no instant solutions to the joblessness problem "You can't expect ungle emplo, ment to be halved after a three hour meeting," said Mr

Investors force Marston to delay pub deal

Evershed, the regional brewer facing a £262m hostile bid from Wolverhampton & Dudley, was yesterday forced into an emtenanted pub estate.

The company has been forced to adjourn an emer-

MARSTON, THOMPSON & BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

institutional shareholders said they would vote down the barrassing climbdown over the management's plans if the proposed securitisation of its meeting was not put back. Institutions have been call-

ing for more time to consider the offer from Wolves, which gency meeting scheduled for had made its offer conditional this morning after its major on the securitisation being re-

jected. The delay will cost £10m if the securitisation is said it still "firmly believes" in ers believe the offer is too low Marston £6m in fees already

This includes £2.5m in fees to Nomura, the Japanese bank, and other advisers for arranging the securitisation, £1.6m in dging costs, £600,000 in credit rating costs and £1.6m for tax and legal advice. Any new deal would cost a similar amount.

The total figure could rise to

abandoned completely. Some the plan but recognised that and that either Wolves will be shareholders have been outraged that Marston agreed such high up-front payments.

Marston insisted yesterday that it was not performing a Uturn even though it said only days ago that it would be too costly to delay the securitisation

In a statement the company

dicated a preference to allow the full bid timetable to run its course.

Wolverhampton & Dudley said it "welcomed" the decision. "We continue to believe that our offer is more attractive than their proposals."

However, many sharehold-

shareholders had strongly in- forced to raise its 279p per share offer or risk a white knight hidder entering the fray.

Greene King, the Abbot ale brewing and pub group, is known to be monitoring the sit-

Marston shares closed a penny lower at 290p. Wolves share closed at 425p.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE GROWING conviction that the Monetary Policy Committee will feel obliged to make a significant base rate reduction tomorrow helped lift Footsie 39 points to 5,615.7; at one time it was 63.1 higher. Supporting indices made modest headway.

Takeover rumours and an investment presentation called for today combined to boost the Zeneca drugs group more than 200p at one time; the shares ended 100p up at 2,520p in heavy trading.

> Derek Pain, page 21 Internet-related services.

NEW YORK

TRADING IN New York stock was mixed yesterday, apart from the continued surge in the computerladen Nasdaq index, which had increased by 15 points to 2,055 by the early afternoon.
"Investors think that the best

hope for earnings growth in 1999 is in computer-related stocks. Spending on technology is one way for companies to improve productivity and drive down costs," said one trader. AT&T rose 4 per cent after it announced 2 deal with IBM, enabling it to offer

TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS ended the day in positive territory after record overnight gains on the Nasdaq, and positive moves regarding futures and options settlement. The benchmark Nikkei index closed up 85 points, or 0.6 per cent at 14.808.

Computer-related stocks lead the way, with Canon rising 3.5 per cent, and silicon-chip manufacturer Shin-Etsu gaining 3.6 per cent. "There is a growing feeling that we are going to see PC sales increase into the new year," said one observer.

A weak yen also lifted exporters. with Sony up 1 per cent

HONG KONG

STOCKS SLID as profit-taking ate into Monday's 1.7 per cent surge, which had investors sitting on the sidelines digesting the gains. The Hang Seng index eased 778 points, nearly I per cent, to 10,351, with dealers concerned that recent rises are not justified

by economic fundamentals. China Overseas Land and lovestment fell by more than 8 per cent as the Chinese-owned developer used the fall in interest rates to raise HK379m in equity capital, raising fears of earnings per share dilution.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN shares extended Monday's falls, with a lack of direction and a weak dollar dampening buying in a market preparing for the change to the euro. The D.X closed down 0.3 per cent at 4,700, 19 points. News that unemployment had risen in November also weighed heavily on the market.

Allianz tumbled 3.3 per cent on news that Deutsche Bank would issue a 1.3bn euro convertible bond exchangeable into Allianz shares, which if exercised would account for 1.6 per cent of Allianz capital.

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The beautiful game turns nasty

NEWCASTLE UNITED is proving rather better at creating a stir off the pitch than on it. Since floating on the stock market 18 months ago at the height of the craze for football shares, the club has bumped up against almost as many corporate governance issues as it's managed to score goals. Off the pitch it's wowed the City with a performance of such cavalier disregard for the accepted norms of a publicly quoted company that it almost commands admiration. On the pitch, it has been numbingly pedestrian.

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minded and indignant about this, to rail against the impotence of regulators in the face of such blatant and deliberate insolence. But the truth of the matter is that even the briefest perusal of the prospectus would have revealed this as a quite likely turn of events. That plainly didn't stop a veritable army of Geordie supporters from subscribing, but the great bulk of fund managers steered clear

None of this makes what has happened any more justifiable, but at least it recognises the reality of the situation. Douglas Hall and Freddy Sheppard control the company, and as long as they don't break Stock Ex- chairmen and non-executive direc-



OUTLOOK

It would be easy to get high change listing rules, they can do ex-ainded and indignant about this, to actly what they like – subject to the obvious proviso that they don't need to tap the capital markets for money again, for they will be refused next

> It is not against the rules to describe the fans as "mugs" for paying so much for the club's football shirts, nor is there anything to prevent you from depicting the captain of your team as "Mary Poppins", even when these comments are delivered from the boudoir of a Spanish brothel. Indeed, most people might reasonably agree with these sentiments.

As for the coming and going of

ple ought to know better than anyone the false respectability their names lend to business fieldoms of this sort. It is all very well resigning in protest over such a predictable outcome: shareholders will want to know why men of such apparent wisdom

Plainly, the best solution would be for the Halls to buy out the minority; this company was never meant to be quoted. Unfortunately that is unlikely to happen. The Halls must know as well as any that Newcastle United isn't worth even the £140m it is now valued at, let alone the £190m at which it was floated. Having "deleveraged" its investment in the club with money raised from "the mugs" at the top of the market, the family is not about to leverage it up again now that everyone is coming belatedly to realise that football is perhaps just a game after all, and not

Manchester United may be worth £675m to Rupert Murdoch; the takeover will give him a powerful position at the negotiating table for TV rights. But it is not apparent that these clubs can command anything

tors (more often going), these peo-like the same magnitude with any-are signs that the end of the road nected to the fact that sales taxes one else.

As trophy assets, they have become too expensive, even for the rich and famous, while as stand alone enterprises they are surely overvalued in the extreme. Extra revenue from TV rights and merchandising promised to transform and reputation took the job in the football into a high return business. In reality the additional monies are being gobbled up in higher salaries and transfer fees, which in football have doubled in the last two years alone. The lesson is an obvious one; leave football to the players, the fans and the mugs.

Car prices

FOR THE last 14 years Europe's car industry has been propped up by a nifty little model designed in Brussels and marketed under the catchy name of the Block Exemption. Over the same period, the car buying public has been the poorer, particularly in Britain, where the private motorist also has to subsidise the hefty price reductions given to the big company fleets.

The Block Exemption was due to get a facelift in 2002, but now there Britain. This may not be uncon-

may be in sight rather sooner. Yesterday's report from the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee is another signpost in that di-

Extraordinary as it may seem in these days of open markets and allpowerful anti-trust authorities, the Block Exemption entitles car makers to fix the market by deciding which dealers are allowed to sell their cars, where, in what quantities and under what terms.

In return for these exclusive rights, the dealers invest in expensive showrooms, highly-trained sales staff and well equipped service centres. The cars are maintained to a high degree, and everyone is happy (and safe).

Except they are not. The Block Exemption is only supposed to keep running provided prices do not vary by more than 18 per cent between member states. Yet since 1984 the car firms have been driving a coach and horses through this rule with price variations, before local taxes, of as much as 60 per cent.

Surprise, surprise, the member state that usually comes out worst in these price comparisons is

group, which has attacked

Young & Co, the London brew-

things," Mr Wielechowski

Instead it looks at cyclical

building, where values rise

and fall dramatically. It also

looks at companies or sectors

or a rationalisation of an

industry, such as building ma-

terials or brewing. It will also

look at businesses where

management that may herald

than if you've got 10, or 5."

could get noisy again soon.

a change of fortunes.

er, for its outdated sharehold-

on cars here are some of the lowest in Europe, which makes the difference in actual purchase price much smaller.

The car makers shrug and explain the price differentials away on exchange rates, all the while making it as hard as possible for anyone to take advantage of the strong pound by driving back over the Channel with a right-hand drive car bought in Europe. The exchange rate argument also fails the test because if it were the dominant factor, then the price of imports would have fallen much more sharply than

they have. The launch of the euro will expose price differences and thus help diminate them, though not here of course. There is one action Brussels can take immediately, however, and that is to send the Block Exemption to the crusher.

Zeneca/Astra

ANOTHER DAY, another megamerger, and a cross-border one at that. Zeneca and Astra make a good fit in product and geographi- would he be prepared to pay the cal terms. They are also roughly the price?

uine merger is at least possible. But the devil is always in the detail. Who will have the upper hand in management terms?

And can the two cultures and nationalities be blended into a harmonious hole? Pharmacia and Upjohn famously degenerated into a snakepit of factional infighting and inter-Continental warring after they merged. From a shareholder value point of view, this is also a far from perfect deal for Zeneca. As the only UK independent of size left its share price is buoyed by bid hopes. A no premium merger, whatever the cost-cutting benefits and synergies. may seem a poor substitute for an

outright takeover. Certainly Sir Richard Sykes. chairman of Glaxo Welcome, will be watching events with a keen interest. Zeneca was his partner of choice before Welcome, but the price ran away from him and Welcome was more easily attainable.

There is no doubt, however, that he still harbours designs, even though such a takeover would give him almost total hegemony in the UK pharmaceuticals industry. But

News Analysis: Phillips & Drew's active strategy of 'value investing' is keeping it busy

Hands-on P&D plays it tough

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

THESE ARE busy times at Phillips & Drew (P&D), the management arm of S. Today it will see Marston, the regional brewer in which it holds a 16 per cent stake, adjourn plans to securitise its tenanted pub estate

due to shareholder pressure. This may be a costly fiasco. but at least it leaves the way clear for Wolverhampton & Dudley's £262m bid to be discussed more fully, while others may yet enter the fray.

Next week P&D will meet the management of Sears, the struggling retail group in whit has a 25 per cent stake. Having been instrudeparture of Liam Strong as chief executive - it regrets not ejecting him earlier - and pushed for the break-up of the group, it has reportedly met with potential bidders for the remaining operation.

P&D has also made it known that it is displeased with the terms of the merger hr in Siebe and BTR, in which it is a major shareholder. And at Marley, the building materials group, it turned its displeasure into action: it encouraged a hostile bid from John Mansfield and then switched horses to back a white-knight bid from Belgian group Etex, banking a £20m paper profit within a week.

since the beginning of November, and there are hints of more such action to come in the near future. Is this sudden righ of activity just a coinci-dence, or is Phillips & Drew adopting a more active approach to fund management? If it is, is this just a sign of the times, with fund managers being judged on ever-shorter time periods? Or is it a function of the group's philosophy

THE PHILLIPS & DREW INVESTMENT HIT-LIST Current Activity Willis Corroon 20

Albert Fisher 12 derperforming Allied Domecq 12.1 All this has taken place

accurately? of "value investing"? With a portfolio heavily weighted towards large holdings in out-

Crunch meeting adjourned today on securitisation of tenanted pub estate Will meet management next week about performance. Has received several approaches about possible hister Unhappy about Siebe merger terms Made £20m in a week when Etex trumped John Mansfield hostile bid Merged with Kwik Save after successful run post float Merger rescued a struggling performe Succumbed to £900m bid from Nomura after dismal run after de-merging from EMI Fell to £851 m bid from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts in July Marsh & McLennan for £1.2bn in August Major disposal programme returned £675m to shareholders leaving just the Pig Improvement Company What next? Stephen Walls and Neil England have gone. But the shares continue to slide. London brewer with outdated dual voting structure has already had a run-in with major shareholders Underperforming ferries group led by Lord Sterfing drinks group tipped for possible shake-up

sized companies, is P&D hav- in the industry, and someing to be more aggressive to times we've left it too long. We the firm's head of investment, get share prices to reflect the look at an investment and if predicted a major correction value of the businesses more According to Jerzy Wiele-chowski, P&D's head of cor-agement isn't getting it right,

porate governance, the firm has been taking a tougher line says: "The timescale has shortened as the fund management industry has become more active. There used to be of-favour smaller and medium a rather gentlemanly attitude debate in recent years. More became the top-performing as UK Active Value, which

the value is not coming through because of a flawed we will meet them to see why the share price is continuing on what it regards as under- to underperform. But we are performing investments. He not short-termist. We are

investor you have to be."
P&D's investment strategy
has been the subject of much

in world stock markets and P&D's funds switched a significant proportion of assets into cash.

Unfortunately the markets moved relentlessly upwards until the middle of this year, leaving P&D languishing at happy to be patient. As a value investor you have to be." the bottom of performance tables. Finally in the third quarter of this year it was

fund in the City due to the col- shook up Signet, Scholl and lapse in equity markets and its Liberty, or Guinness Peat strong cash position. As a result its funds shrank in value by 7.7 per cent compared with the industry average of 11 per er voting structure. "It is not cent. But the subsequent rally our style to build up a stake may well have caught the firm and then go gung-ho changing

Its underweight position in says. equities has been exacerbated by some of the stocks it has industries, such as housechosen. At first glance its stock picks read like a list of some of the market's biggest duds - Albert Fisher, Sears, Kwik Save, Allied Domecq, Willis Corroon. The list goes on

But P&D insists value investing has worked and will continue to work. "We are 100 per cent confident it works. Our own track record proves it. Value investing historically has delivered above average P&D's apparent new aggresresults. But there are times when it doesn't work."

Put simply, P&D's value investment philosophy aims to judge whether the fair value of an asset, such as a company, is accurately reflected in its share price. Market value, it says, is affected by many things like investment fads, fashions and rumours, which often have little to do with the underlying business. So P&D looks at the standard measurements of value, such as cash-flow, yield, the quality of the management and the strength of its strategy, and makes a judgement as to whether this is reflected by the stock market.

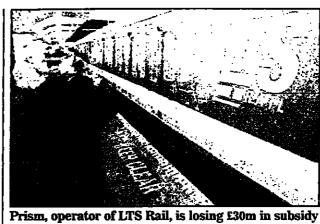
At the moment, for example, this has led it to shun banking and telecoms in favour of sectors such as food retailing, engineering and building materials. It has avoided the largest companies, which it reckons are over-valued, in favour of smaller and mid cap stocks, which it says will return to favour.

But P&D claims it is being misjudged. It insists it is not a larger, more powerful version partially vindicated when it of shareholder activists such

ment basis and were confined to

a fairly small group of sophisti-

cated investors, most of whom



Prism Rail profits and shares plunge

that could benefit from an SHARES IN Prism Rail, which By MICHAEL HARRISON improvement in the economy operates four passenger train cent yesterday after the group reported a 90 per cent fall in first-half profits and warned there has been a change of would be below expectations.

The group blamed a sharp Mr Wielechowski says reduction in the public subsidies it will receive this year, sion is not actually new. "We higher penalty payments owing to poor performance and a asked a lot of questions about Granada in the early 1990s, for shortage of drivers.

Prism operates Londonexample. But in the last few Tilbury-Southend Rail - once years we have been using our leverage more. If you want to dubbed the "misery line" -West Anglia Great Northern, make some noise it is a lot easier if you've got 20 per cent which runs trains out of London's Liverpool Street station, If hints emerging from P&D Wales and West Country, and Cardiff Railway. Revenue are anything to go by, things grants for the four franchises

franchises, plunged by 14 per are falling by £30m this year. Pre-tax profits for the period from 1 April to 17 October collapsed from £4.2m to £500,000 that earnings for the full year after subsidies fell by £14.4m. Prism made a net payment of £2m under the performance regime. Analysts cut full-year forecasts from £13m to £10m.

The main problems occurred in Prism's Wales and West Country franchises, which were hit by driver shortages, poor reliability, an increase in track failures and the poor

Giles Fearnley, chief executive, criticised Railtrack, saying that its performance in Wales and West Country had been "far

Because not everyone's special day falls on December 25th.

Failed US move | SEC to investigate claims cost Lucas £13m that LTCM breached rules

LUCASVARITY'S failed attempt By MICHAEL HARRISON to move its headquarters and market listing from London to
New York cost the car compothe London Stock Exchange. nents and aerospace group

the group's plan to switch domicile to the US last month in a said following the defeat that it was now "business as usuai".

Lucas Varity is not likely to revive the plan in the near term. atcome next March when we port full-year results."

There has been speculation that LucasVarity will seek in the fund was the first former of the fund was prompted by concerns that Mr. August and September 1998 promised but was never need-the first former of the fund was promised but was never need-that its £120m target next year. Meriwether did not make it were done on a private place ed since no money was raised.

The £13m bill helped reduce

£13m, it emerged yesterday. profits for the third quarter by Shareholders voted down 16 per cent from £85m to £71m. The bulk of the costs came from fees charged by its investment humiliating snub for chief executive Victor Rice. Mr Rice gan Stanley and Merrill Lynch, and its two brokers, Hoare Govett and Cazenove.

Lucas Varity said conditions remained difficult in Asia and However, a spokesman said: South America, while trading From a strategic standpoint we was becoming tougher in other are undertaking significant de regions. It expects the North liberations. We will detail the American and European car markets to decline by 3 to 4 per cent next year.

Cost savings should reach

launched a preliminary inquiry into allegations that Long-Term Capital Management breached US securities law by not disclosing the extent of its difficulties when it tried to raise capital from its investors in an 11thhour attempt to stave off col-

lapse last September The hedge fund, which was founded by former Solomon Brothers trader John Meri-wether, was bailed out to the tune of \$3,75bn by a consortium of 14 banks on the prompting of the US Federal Reserve in September. They included Barclays and Wall Street finance houses Goldman Sachs and Merrill

The SEC inquiry was

AMERICA'S SECURITIES and BY ANDREW GARFIELD Exchange Commission has Financial Editor

> clear in a letter to investors asking for more funds that the money was needed to service said yesterday. open market positions worth more than \$100bn and that without fresh money the fund would

LTCM said yesterday it was satisfied that all the documents it had issued to investors were "in full compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regula-

The SEC has yet to decide whether to launch a formal in- portunity to do so," he said. vestigation which would allow its enforcement staff to issue subpoenas compelling those involved to give evidence. "All fund-raising efforts in

are already investors in the fund," an LTCM spokesman He added that LTCM's situation was well known to investors as a result of the letter Mr Meriwether sent to investors

on 2 September. "All prospective investors were invited to discuss the situation with authorized persons at LTCM or to visit the offices in Greenwich for an in-depth valuation and many took the op-

The spokesman added that investors were told that a "supplemental document" giving more precise information about the state of the fund was Chat as long as you like for 50p on Christmas Day and every Saturday all year round.

On December 25th national calls will cost no more than 50p - however long you stay on the phone." But if you don't manage to catch up with everyone on Christmas Day, don't worry. Because the same goes for

In fact, from now on, the same goes for every Saturday all year round if you're with Cable & Wireless. So, if you want a phone service where the season of goodwill lasts all year, give us a call today.

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Market upheavals and euro intensify the urge to merge

BY ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

THE GLOBAL mega-merger wave that has swept the developed world this year is likely to last well into 1999, with slower economic growth and the advent of the euro compounding pressure on corporate management to do deals, according to research by JP Morgan, the American invest-

"Over the last two weeks 24 deals worth over \$1bn have been done and the year is not over yet." Klaus Diederichs. JP Morgan's co-head of global advisory, said yesterday.

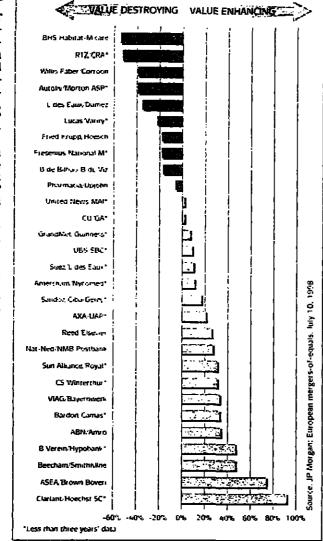
The financial markets turmoil in August and September. far from killing off the mergers and acquisitions (M&A) market, has actually galvanised nanagements into action.

Most of the deals, says Mr Diederichs, are being driven by the realities of the market place rather than by the kind of financial engineering that drove the M&A boom of the 1980s. "The companies we are seeing are talking about industrial logic and cost savings, not financing."

Investors, he says, have become used to double-digit returns. But in a low growth, low inflation market, achieving earnings growth of more than 3 per cent a year is going to be virtually impossible. "The only way to achieve this is to try mething and go and create

The pressure is intensifying. "A lot of companies have been shocked over the last six months at their lack of pricing power," says Mr Diederichs. He quotes Antoine Riboud, the former chairman and chief executive of Danone, the French foods giant: "If you are number one you make a profit, if you are number two you just hang on. If you are number three you break even.

DO MEGAMERGERS WORK? VALUE DESTROYING VALUE ENHANCING



gist, adds: "The largest firms have not just the largest market share but are also able to do the largest M&A deals."

The sectors where deals are most likely to come next year are financial and retailing, which have traditionally been regarded in terms of distinct national markets. That is about

"The operating environ-The rest forget it." ment is getting tougher and tougher, and it is harder to chief European equity strate- achieve the growth the stock size - have added sharehold-

market expects," says Mr Duggan. The advent of the euro also means that fund managers will be focusing on the top 50 European stocks to the detriment of the middle-ranking firms which are big in national markets but lack the

tal or global stage. More than two-thirds of "mergers of equals" – an allshare merger between two companies of roughly equal

size to make it on a continen-

performance of the shares against the relevant stock market indices. That compares with a figure of 56 per cent for all deals, including straightforward takeovers.

The research runs counter to the large body of academic research frequently trotted out showing that most deals are value-destroving

However Paul Gibbs, head of analytical policy for JP Morgan's European mergers and place. This partly explains why no-premium mergers have come from almost nowhere three years ago to dominate global merger and acquisition

JP Morgan's research also suggests that crossborder deals within Europe are the ones least likely to deliver value to shareholders, because of the political difficulties in integrating businesses and achieving economies of scale. Deals within the same national markets offer most scope for cost savings, and transatiantic deals have performed well. Mr Diederichs adds that

deals are also more likely to succeed if they are backed up by a clear strategy. He cites the example of the BP merger with Amoco. "The deal had a fantastic reception. It was well thought out. John Browne [the BP chief executive] had a strong track record of getting his house in order. That is not the case with other deals."

This contrasts with the Rhône-Poulenc and Hoechst deal last week, where for political reasons the precise management structure and the extent or nature of cost sayings have had to be fudged.

Mr Gibbs also questions whether the ScottishPower/ PacifiCorp deal will deliver. "It is hard to see where the cost reductions are going to be achieved," he says.



network in Europe based on the Internet data protocol

Takeover creates acquisitions team, says the main reason why deals fail to deliver is because the acquirer pays too much in the first

TWO OF Europe's newest telecoms operators yesterday joined forces in a merger which will create a \$4.1bn (£2.5bn) powerhouse in the fast-ex-

panding European market. Esprit Telecom, which is listed on the Easdag exchange for European technology companies, has agreed to an allshare takeover by Global TeleSystems (GTS), a US group which financier George Soros helped to fund. The offer values Esprit at \$985m.

The move is the first sign of consolidation among the many companies that rushed to grab market share in European telecoms after competition was introduced at the start of the year.

The news sparked a flurry of bid speculation among other telecoms operators. Shares in Colt Telecom, which has built fibre-optic networks in major European cities and is a favourite takeover candidate jumped 40p to 840p. "It was a necessary move for

Esprit: they do need scale," said John Tysoe, analyst at SG Securities. "This makes them look as if they've got a sufficient critical mass. Both companies have set

up high-speed telecoms networks to carry traffic for other operators and business customers. However, Esprit has grown by setting up sales

we're on **your** side

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

operations across Europe to attract business customers. GTS has concentrated on building an extensive network based on the Internet Protocol of transferring data. The company has a controlling shareholding in Hermes Railtel, the network set up by Europe's railway companies. Recently GTS announced plans to mimic competitors such as Colt Telecom and WorldCom by building fibre-optic networks in 12 European cities.

They have put in the bandwidth, while we have the customer base," said David Oertle, Esprit chief executive. "It's natural we should come together."

Shareholders representing 65 per cent of Esprit's share capital, including Apax Partners and Warburg Pincus, the venture capital groups that helped start Esprit in 1992, have agreed to accept the offer.

The move creates a major player in the so-called "carriers" carrier" market - providing high-speed telecoms capacity for other operators - with 60 per cent market share. On latest quarterly accounts, combined annual revenues are around \$465m. It will have 3,000 employees and 35,000 customers.

This market is expected to grow between 50 and 70 per cent over the next five years." said Gerald Thomas, GTS chief

forges \$5bn link with IBM

AT&T, the US telecommunications giant, yesterday forged close links with IBM, the computer group, in a clutch of deals which will see thousands of staff move between the two companies, writes Peter Thal

AT&T is buying IBM's corporate computer networking business for \$5bn, winning a hotly contested auction involving rival bidders such as Cable & Wireless and British Telecom.

The move gives AT&T, which earlier this year agreed a \$10bn international joint venture with British Telecom, access to the world's largest computer networking business, providing internal networks and external Internet connections to about 35,000 customers in 100 countries around the world.

As part of the deal, IBM will outsource a large part of its own networking requirements to AT&T in a five-year contract valued at \$5bn. Meanwhile. AT&T has transferred some of its billing and installation operations to IBM in a \$4bn, 10year agreement.

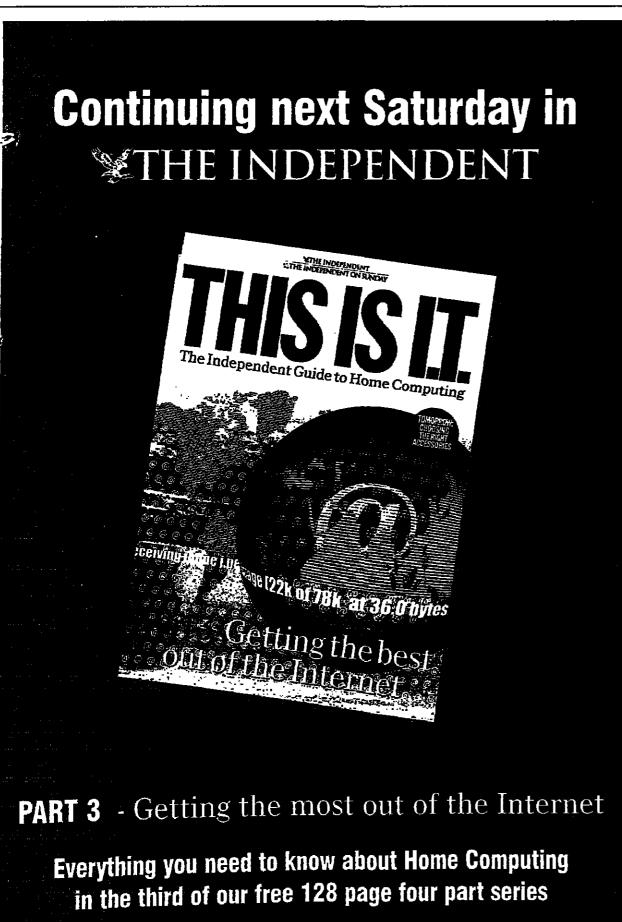
Under the terms of the deal, more than 2,000 AT&T employees will move to IBM while around 5,000 IBM employees will join the telecom group.

The deal, which is subject to regulatory approval, will allow IBM to concentrate on providing computer hardware, software and services.

The computer giant originally started the networking business in 1981 when most telecom operators only offered national services.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (4)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-di
Aberdeen Assel Manag. (F)	4B 48m (22.31m)	-8 62m (3.59m)	4 10p (2 64p)	4 5p (-)	20 01.99	04.01
Avocat Mining (1)	8 002m (17 575m)	-3 522m (-0 902m)	-6.3p (-2.6p)	- (-)	-	-
Sertuley Group (1)	332 446m (274 032m)	52 530m (43 881m)	29 Op (28 7p)	2 80p (2 66p)	12 02 99	04 01
Brewin Dolphia Holdings (N)	48 76m (48 66m)	B 35m (7 22m)	21.7p (20 6p)	-(-)	-	-
BSS Group (1)	170 6ám (159 1ám)	7 514m (7 127m)	19.0p (18 1p)	7 Sp (7 Op)	15 01 99	14 12 1
BTP (I)	182 ôn (216 1m)	*22 9m (25 2m)	9 28p (10 53p)	4 33p (4.20p)	11.02.99	01.02
Drew Scientific Group (I)	@ 968m :1 288m)	-0 496m (-0 154m)	-1 7p (-0 6p)	– (-)	-	-
Fayrewood (i)	54 119m (20 2918m)	0 961m (0 485m)	2.70 (2.10)	0 54p (0 50p)	07 04 99	14 12 !
Holmes & Marchaet Grp (F)	25 873m (25 746m)	t 194m (1 005m)	4.5p (2.7p)	- (-)	-	-
Hozelock Group (F)	53 9m (52 6m)	4 7m (7 06m)	14 2n (20.1n)	11.3p (11.3p)	12 02 99	04 01 1
Jasmin (II)	3 13m (4 0m)	0.269m (0.279m)	5.80p (6.84p)	- {-}	-	-
John David Sports (1)	68 94m (52 8m)	5 8Bm (5.52m)	8.60p (8.19p)	2.06 (2.06)	25 02 99	29 12 !
Landround (F)	3 16m (1 5m)	D 817m (0.391m)	12 4p (5 4p)	5 Op (-)	05.02 99	14 12
Loadon Clube interestional (f)	79 îm r58 îm)	9 655m (13 469m)	4 20 (6 80)	2 60 (2 60)	08 02.99	04 01
Orbis (II)	21 Bm : 17 6m)	1 Sm (1.2m)	Q 84p (O 75p)	0 38p (0 35p)	26.02.99	14 12
Planton (I)	20 9m (14 15m)	0 202m (-8 228m)	0 870 (-42 130)	- (-)	_	-
Prism Rail (1)	246 31m (235 9m)	0 522m (4 175m)	1 60 (11 50)	4.2p (4.0p)	12 02 99	11 (11
ScotSsb & Newcastle Brs. (I)	1.6636 (1.6786)	214 5m (224 5m)	26.85 (28.10)	8.530 (7.930)	12 02 99	11.01
Sattes Harbeur Holdlogs (1)	2 09m (1 63m)	0 357m (0 421m)	3 58p (4.22p)	1 4p (1 3p)	06 04 9 8	14 12
Litratrane (F)	61 6m (53 6m)	18 Bm (11 12m)	14.2p (7.6p)	5 4p (-)	26 01 99	21 12
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INDEPENDENT

Zeneca surges in feverish trading

IN OFTEN feverish trading shares of the Zeneca drugs group surged 205p as rumours of a Continental takeover once again swirled around

The stock market, which would dearly love a mega deal for Christmas, was happy to go along with the bid idea although speculators may have been wrong footed by institutional buying ahead of an investment presentation the drugs group has called for today.

Zeneca has been one of the market's favourite bid candidates since it was demerged from Imperial Chemical industries five years ago.

With its impressive drugs portfolio it looks irresistible takeover fodder for the likes of Glaxo Wellcome and the Swiss giant Roche.

Although it is capitalised at nearly £24bn Zeneca is a relatively small player in a rapidly consolidating industry. Glaxo, for example, is worth nearly £70bn and SmithKline Beecham £42bn.

Turnover, most of it during the afternoon, was 2.5 million shares. The price closed 100p higher at 2.520p which compares with a year's high of 2,762p.

MARKET REPORT



PAIN

Monday's barren display and Footsie, at one time up 63.1 points, ended with a comfortable 39 gain to 5,615.7. Supporting indices edged

Blue chips drew strength from the growing conviction that the Monetary Policy Committee will feel obliged to reduce interest rates although few believe it will indulge in the full 1 percentage point cut being advocated in some quarters.

Still another gloomy retail survey appeared to underline the need for a significant, say half-a-point, easing.

British Aerospace, at one time Whitbread, 24p to 763p, responded hopes of a Continental deal. There were suggestions it could clinch the rumoured deal with Daimler-Chrysler Aerospace tomorrow. The shares ended 7p lower at 504p.

Prism Rail threatened to derail some of the other train operators after rolling out disappointing interim figures. Stagecoach, with half -year results tomorrow, shaded 11.75p to 230p. The group is expected to produce £94m against £73.1m; there is some vague talk it has encountered problems at its Porterbrook off-shoot. Railtrack was shunted 49p down to 1,521p by cautious comments from HSBC, which

British Airways was lowered 6.5p to 366.5p as it became apparent that Warburg Dillon Read had shaved its year's profits estimate by some £100m to £300m. Most forecasts are above £400m.

suggested the shares should be

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft-drink group. fizzed ahead 30p to 913p on further consideration of its US bottling deal, and Allied Domecq, 18p to 530p, and

8p higher, continued to flutter on to cheerful comments on pub trading from Scottish & Newcastle. 15.5p higher at 719.5p.

But pub tiddler Paramount collapsed 6.5p to a 10p low ahead of next

EMERALD ENERGY'S Colombian oil adventure is looking distinctly jaded. The shares, 10p earlier this year, fell 0.5p to 3.25p.

There is disappointment over the results so far achieved at its Gigante well and, with its shares on the slide, it is clearly encountering difficulty raising the additional cash, perhaps as much as £10m, it needs to continue its Colombian exploration. Emerald's position is not helped by the collapse of

week's shareholders' meeting. Five years ago the price was 105p.

the crude oil price.

The oil giants drew comfort from the modest revival of the crude price from its historic low. British Petroleum put on 23p to 883.5p and Shell, also helped by the prospect

SHARE SPOTLIGHT ZENECA 2100 -

of an analysts meeting scheduled for later this month, improved 14.5p to 349.5p. But Premier Oil, seemingly doomed to relegation from the mid

DIFMAMIJA SOND

cap index, lost 2.25p to 18.75p. PizzaExpress was sliced 32.5p to 812.5p by director selling. Six of its nine-strong boardroom team cashed in by selling 1.15 million shares at an average price of 837p. The deals re-

Director buying gave a lift to gans at Newcastle Utd clipped the struggling Spring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen group. The shares rose 1p to 6p after chairman Roger Regan and two other directors acquired 900,000 shares.

DEAN CORPORATION, in its new slim-line form following the hiving off of its housebuilding and pub refurbishment operations, traded at 7p.

The demerged business, called Artisan, was around 6p on AIM. Before the splits the group's shares were 10.5p. Dean, which is due to become Environmental Property Services, hopes the break will improve its share price which hit 19.5p earlier this year. It has paid 2.75m for IPM Engineering.

Arcadia, the retailing group devastated by a profits warning, fell a further 6.5p to 175p as a Warburg downgrading of its former partner,

Debenhams, piled on the agony. Debenhams fell 5.5p to 330p.

shares 3.5p to 94.5p. Blocklevs, the building materials group, softened 3.5p to 41.5p. It said it was looking to unlock shareholder value. The company urged shareholders not to accept the bid from Natural Building Materials, which already has 10.5 per cent of the capital and is striving to take its support to 29.9 per cent. It expects acceptances

representing a further 20 per cent. Hewetson, another building materials group, firmed 6p to 150p after the market closed it reported a possible bid approach. Engineer Jones & Shipman, another to attract bid interest, gained 1.5p to 12p. Mining group Waverley hardened to 6.5p after bidder Corporate Resolve revised its offer.

Arm, the computer chip group, jumped 105p to 1,195p on expected trading links and Acorn, with an Arm stake, rose 4.5p to 79p. Allowing for tax influences it seems the Arm interest could be worth 100p for each Acorn share.

SEAQ VOLUME: 854.8m SEAQ TRADES: 55,349 GILT INDEX: 114.34 +0.45

Investment: The fall in consumer confidence is worrying the UK's biggest brewer

slides on property downturn

BY SIMON DUKE

BERKELEY GROUP, the UK's second-largest housebuilder, saw its are price dip by 3 per cent yesterday as it predicted a downturn in the property market

Reporting a below-forecast 20 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profit to £52.5m, Graham Roper, group chairman, said demand from Asian buyers and speculators had dried up in London. "The slowdown, which started in the spring, has continued. Volumes have dropped, and there is pressure on sale prices."

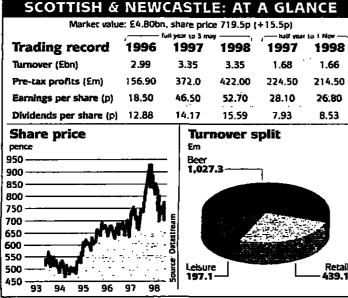
Berkeley, which estimates that land prices in the capital have fallby about 20 per cent, said it had its land purchases by up to 75 per cent on last year. With £14m in cash Mr Roper believes Berkeley will take advantage of "the buying opportunities which will become available during this less certain period".

Berkeley's slide from a 12-month high of 776p in May to yesterday's three-year low of 410p is a familiar story in a sector in which City confidence has collapsed. And Berkeley is viewed as a company with a highan-average exposure to the

volatile London housing market. Jonathan Timms, analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, said the company had put in another good performance, but the market was against it. But if January and February sales figures are positive, Berkeley will start to look cheap against assets. The company is capitalised at £520m, against over £600m in assets. "Logically, a housing company with a high asset turnover should not be valued below net asset value," said Mr Timms.

However, another analyst said rkeley's figures showed an unexplained sale that reaped an £11m profit. "With this stripped out, there is actually a profit decline. Berkeley's only problem in the past has been the mismanagement of expectations, leading the market to believe it could earn 25 per cent more than is possible in the long term. We are beginning to see what Berkeley's sustainable earnings really are, and

Berkeley Christmas beer sales may thrilling, really, disappoint, warns S&N



SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, the UK's By Francesco Guerrera largest brewer, yesterday warned that fading consumer confidence could depress beer sales in the crucial Christmas period.

Sir Alistair Grant, chairman, said that although trading in the company's pubs and beers had picked up from the summer slump, "there is still concern about consumer confidence".

Brian Stewart, the chief executive, said that the uncertainty over customer spending made him "very cautious" over sales during the festive season, which account for around 15 per cent of S&N's yearly turnover.

However, he said he was confident that pub-goers would react to the economic slowdown by "trading up" to some of S&N's premium brands, which include Fosters, Kronenbourg

1998

and Miller Pilsner. Mr Stewart's comments came as S&N, which brews nearly one in three pints in owned by Nomura. The Grand Pub effect overshad-Britain and owns more than 2,000 pubs, reported a 4.5 per cent drop in

The dividend was raised 7.6 per cent to 8.53p. The earnings slide was broadly in line with market expectations and was driven by a collapse in beer sales which offset a strong showing from S&N's pub operations.

interim pre-tax profits to £214.5m on

turnover marginally down to £1.66bn.

Lager and ale sales had been hit hard by the poor summer weather and by the end of an exclusive supply agreement. S&N said that most of the 9.9 per cent fall in the profits

at the Woodstock Pub in London yesterday of its beer division to £104.3m was growth avenue in international hotels. caused by the renegotiation of a lu- I'm not quite sure where S&N would crative contract to provide beer to the go for growth." Grand Pub Company, the pub giant

owed strong growth in S&N's premium brands, led by Miller's 22 per cent advance and Fosters' 10 per cent increase. City analysts remained cautious on the future outlook for S&N's shares, which yesterday jury is still out on S&N." strengthened 15.5p to 719.5p.

Nigel Popham, of Teather & Greenwood, said S&N was well equipped to weather a consumer slowdown. However, he warned that beer and pubs were mature businesses that were unlikely to yield sharp growth in the long term. "If you compare it with Bass, Bass has a declined to comment on the rumour.

Mr Popham, who yesterday downgraded its profits forecast for this year from £430m to £420m, said that he has a "hold/sell" recommendation on the stock. "The rating of these shares - on a prospective price/earnings ration of around 13.5 - looks to be in line with Bass. This is not dear but the

Ben Maitland, brewing analyst at broker Sutherlands, said that growth could come from the acquisition of a European brewer. S&N has been rumoured to have considered a 52bn bid for Kronenbourg, owned by the French food group Danone. Derek Wilkinson, S&N financial director,

Insurance – it's but nature calls

GOOD TO know that Günther Gose has got off to a flying start. The new chief financial officer of Allied Zurich enthralled insurance analysts at a recent presentation in the Swiss city.

Mr Gose, a fascinating orator, held the experts spellbound for more than two hours with his musings about embedded value and the life

Given the spectacular success of the Swiss executive's speech, it is a shame that a small number of analysts had to leave the room early due a suitable woman colleague to duet to an urgent, and simultaneous. physiological need.

the City number-crunchers took all their papers with them to the toilets and never returned to the scene of avoid paying taxes on the office such a captivating talk.

A Lutz, the former president of Mark Chilvers Chrysler In his latest book, modestly entitled GUTS - The Seven Laws of Business That Made Chrysler the World's Hottest Car Company -Mr Lutz recounts his efforts to wipe

out gibberish management-speak. He circulated to staff a "handydandy Lutz Language Guide" highlighting the gab-excesses of some managers. Here are some nuggets:

"Team-oriented interdisciplinary buy-in" meant "Everybody is interested". "Shared conceptual vision" meant "Agreed Plan". And, of course, "Enhanced conceptual vision" is "your superior's plan".

My favourite by far is "Interactive cross-organisational communication" for "sending memos back and

PROCEEDING swiftly to the next item on the five-year business plan" in other words, moving on – I hear of a new chapter in the history of City law firm Clifford Chance.

After years of munching mince pies in one of the Square Mile's watering holes, Clifford's business development unit, headed by Kevin Geary, has decided to celebrate Christmas in style. The lawyers are all off to Covent Garden next week for a karaoke night to remember.

Mr Geary, coincidentally, will be will be stolen by Tom Rose, one of the unit's

PEOPLE AND **BUSINESS**

BY FRANCESCO **GUERRERA**

He tells me that he is planning a rendition of "Fairytale in New York". the Pogues' hit. "But only if I can find with," he warns.

It is even more regrettable that KARAOKE OR not, Leslie Ferrar, a partner with accountants KPMG, has a number of precious tips to

She reveals that, provided that the PERHAPS Mr Gose should seek Christmas bash is open to all staff ty office boys included) and that it does not cost more than £75 per drunken head, no income tax or National Insurance contributions need be paid.

Beware of cash bonuses, too. Ms Ferrar warns that if you get some Yuletide dosh you could receive a hefty Inland Revenue bill.

How to avoid the taxman? Go back to basics, advises the KPMG tax guru. Instead of vile cash, request a hamper or a turkey...

BIG CHANGES at Avis Europe. Alun Cathcart, the Ulsterman known as "Mr Car Rental", will relinquish his chief executive position in March. He will be replaced by Mark McCafferty, a recent recruit from Thomas Cook.

David Maloney, who missed out on the top job, will leave his finance director post in September to make way for Chris Cowan, a former Jardine Matheson executive.

After 16 years in the post, it was time for a change, says the 55-yearold Mr Cathcart, who will stay on as chairman. He plans to devote more time to his beloved opera and to improve his 7mph record on the tread-

Regrets? He has few. "There is nothing worse than for people who have staved in a job for a long time abroad on business, so the limelight to overstay," he says, with a strange

Ascot buys German chemical group for £90m

SHARES IN Ascot, the industrial group, surged by 6 per cent yesterday following the announcement of the acquisition of the Haltermann Group, a German chemical group,

In a statement, Ascot said that the purchase "creates a world-leading business in the chemicals outsourcing market, which has attrac-

BY SIMON DUKE

DM250m purchase through the issue of £31m of shares, while the remainder will be paid in cash. The Haltermann board will retain more

than half of the newly issued shares. The acquisition of Haltermann, which last year reported a pre-tax profit of £9.4m on a turnover of

with 50 per cent market share in Europe, and 30 per cent in the US.

Contract chemical processing, the manufacture of small batches of specialist chemicals outsourced by bigger companies, is perceived by the City as a stable business.

"It is an excellent part of the industry to be in. You don't have anything like the cycles of the commodity £130m, will make Ascot the world's chemical business, or even speciallargest contract chemical processor, ity chemicals," said one analyst.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the house broker, upped its full-year pretax profit forecasts by 7 per cent. With a share price of 250p, many believe that the forward p/e ratio of 7.5

Ascot is also expected to benefit from a joint venture with ChiroTech, which makes a chemical compound for Glaxo's new anti-Aids drug, Abacavir, due to be launched in January.

is too low.

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SPORT

Champions' League: Ferguson orders defence to cut out early mistakes that have cost them dearly in the past

United must kick bad habits

BY GLENN MOORE

MONACO TOOK six minutes, Borussia Dortmund five, Juventus took one and Barcelona, last month, scored within 50 seconds. In recent years in the big European matches, Manchester United have had a predilection for conceding early

It is an unfortunate habit and "one that's got to stop", according to the United manager, Alex Ferguson. With his team needing to beat Bayern Munich at Old Trafford tonight to ensure qualification for the Champions' League quarterfinals there is no time like the present to kick the problem. The goals by Dortmund and Monaco, both at Old Trafford, led to United's departure from the last two competitions and Ferguson will be impressing upon his players the need to concentrate straight from the kick-off.

The problem is United are rarely tested in the early stages of domestic matches as most opponents are more intent on keeping a clean sheet than spoiling theirs. In Europe it is a different story. "You could analyse the goals one by one but it comes down to good teams liking to make an early impact." Ferguson

It is a weakness that one of tonight's Old Trafford opponents knows all about. Ottmar Hitzfeld was the jubilant Dortmund manager when Lars Ricken effectively ended United's European challenge five minutes into the 1997 quarter-final.

Now Hitzfeld returns with Bayern having imposed an uncommon discipline on the 'Hollywood FC'. As well as leading Group D of the Champions' League, despite losing their first match to Brondby, they are second in the Bundesliga and play the leaders. Bayer Leverkusen, on

That and the fact that Bayern may well go through even if they lose, may help a United side which will enjoy the rare luxury of being at full strength with Ryan Giggs coming into the side which drew 1-1 at Aston Villa on Saturday.

Giggs could be crucial in unpicking a Bayern defence which has only conceded six goals in 10 games and is likely to sit deep to compensate for 37-year-old Lothar Matthäus's lack of pace. Ahead of nally to have found the platform he has sought throughout his career, leasing the prolific Brazilian, Giovanne Elber, behind the United

which Ferguson regards as the most potent of his dozen years at Old Trafford. United have scored 50 goals in 20 games this season with the partnership of Dwight Yorke (12) and Andy Cole (8) averaging a goal-

guson, who looked relaxed as he held bit nervous but also excited," he to that early Ricken goal, to com-



court in one of Old Trafford's many will attempt to take advantage of function suites. "If someone had said United's need to push forward by re- at the start of this group that we would score eight goals against Barcelona and Bayern Munich in three matches with one more to To counter United have a front six come you would have said: How many suns are there in the sky?"

Despite the rival attraction of Bayern's simultaneous press conference a few miles away, Ferguson drew an audience of 40 journalists spoke respectfully of English footand 11 television camera crews. "It is one of those challenging football "We have a goal threat," said Fermatches which makes you a little winning 1-0 at Old Trafford, thanks

added, "I'm looking forward to it." So, according to Elber, are Baybut we see that they are vulnerable in defence. That's why we have a chance," he said. Hitzfeld believed United had improved from two years ago but added that this Bavern side were better than his Dortmund one - which went on to win

ball and the "90 minutes of fighting". Dortmund stunned United by

the trophy. Matthaus, meanwhile,

plete a 2-0 aggregate victory. In this scenario Bayern need only a point ern. "United are very good in attack and United all three, but given the standings in the other groups the Germans should progress regardless and United will almost certainly go through with a draw as one of the two best runners-up, particularly with their superior goal difference.

Roy Keane, with characteristic simplicity, put it all in perspective. "People have been trying to work out all the variations but if we win we're through - that's what we're aiming

Bayern, who are surprisingly ford, are on £100,000-a-man to qualif they can avoid that early goal, United should ensure they are still in line for both when the competition resumes next spring.

When asked if he had decided on his team, Hitzfeld replied: "I will wait until after the last training session. Perhaps overnight I will have a stroke of genius.

Bayern are expected to field Jens Jeremies. Effenberg and

Thomas Strunz in a three-man midmaking their first visit to Old Traf- field, with two wing-backs and Matthaus as sweeper behind two ify. Their hosts are on far less but central defenders. Elber will speartonight is about glory not money and, head their attack in tandem with either Alexander Zickler or Carsten Jancker

Mario Basler and Thomas Helmer are expected to be on the bench, while Mehmet Scholl and the Iranian Ali Daei are unavailable because of injury.

Manchester United (Probable, 4-4-2), Schme-chel; Brown, G Newlle, Stam, Irwin; Beckham, Scholes, Keane, Giggs; Cole, Yorke, Bayern Musich (Probable, 1-2-4-3); Kann; Marthaus; Babbel, Heimer; Strunz, Basier, Je-

Vyacheslav Koloskov, the embat-

Wenger's face test of mettle

BY BILL PIERCE in Athens

ARSENE WENGER knew it had to happen sooner or later and he will get a daunting insight tonight into life without the famous defence which has underpinned Arsenal's glory for more than a decade. But what is already certain to be

a Greek tragedy for boss Wenger in the no-win situation of Arsenal's Champions' League swansong against Panathinaikos, could also be. the Frenchman hopes, a glimpse into a new bright Highbury future. Thirteen of his injury-hit squad

will miss the final Group E game if Martin Keown and Remi Garde fitness tests on groin injuries. That would leave 19-year-old Matthew Upson to step into the boots of Tony Adams, out for six weeks with an agonising back complaint.

The suspended Lee Dixon and injured Nigel Winterburn are also certain to be missing from football's most enduring defensive unit. but Upson is showing typical Arsenal fortitude under fire and insisted: "I seriously believe I'm ready for this. I'll show I've got the same great Arsenal spirit that Tony has."

There could be no more intimidating stage for Upson to prove that one day he could become the new Adams - the Olympic Stadium will be packed with nearly 100000 hostile Greek fans ready to try 40 roar their team through to the quar-

Panathinaikos, the victims of Arsenal's only Champions' League win at Wembley in September, are licking their lips at the thought of the severely depleted team Wenger must field - no Dennis Bergkamp. Marc Overmars, Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira, Stephen Hughes or Winterburn through injuries. There will also be no Ray Parlour who is suspended after being sent off against Lens at Wembley two weeks ago.

Instead Upson stands by in a services of young rookies for only his 11th first-team appearance since moving 18 months ago from Luton, where he played just once in the league and yet was considered such a hot prospect that Arsenal paid £1.5million for him.

Wenger admits his fears for Upson and all the other inexperienced players he will be forced to use again as stop-gaps. But the 6ft 1in defender said: "I came here to learn and make a name for myself : ow I could get my chance in a European Cup match and I'm looking forward to it. It's not an ideal situation. The manager knows he's got to change the Arsenal defence sooner or later. but you don't want to have to do it all at once.

"Personally I feel the Adams-Keown partnership is the best around and, hopefully for the club. it will go on a lot longer yet. Ive learned a lot from just watching them, and my positional sense is already 100 per cent better since I came to Arsenal "

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Nelson Vivas has failed to live to his billing for Arsenal, but they will need his experience at right-back tomorrow. Wenger may be forced to play a back five for the first time in his two years at Highbury, with Upson on the left of three central defenders. Gilles Grimandi and standin captain Steve Bould will be the other two if Keown fails his fitness test - and that could also bring in teenager David Grondin, while Alberto Mendez looks certain to occupy Parlour's right midfield role.

Ronaldo's return set to bring relief to Internazionale

their Champions' League Group C at Vicenza on Sunday, from the tie away to Austria's Sturm Graz start tonight. He will be partnered tonight. Ronaldo's return from a recurrence of the knee tendon problems which plagued him during the World Cup finals is a relief for a side still coming to terms with last week's

sacking of the coach Gigi Simoni. The Romanian Mircea Lucescu, who replaced Simoni, is likely to play

up front in Graz by Youri Djorkaeff, who is not yet fully fit and could be substituted by either Chile's Ivan

RONALDO IS likely to be in In- the Brazilian, who came on for the reaction when substituted by Mikaël Reinmayr who missed the match argument at a road junction in the ternazionale's starting line-up for final 20 minutes of Inter's 1-1 draw Silvestre in the weekend's league ac- against Spartak Moscow two weeks centre of Genoa.

Sturm Graz are likely to be without five regulars. The midfielders Roman Mählich, Markus Schupp. Mehrdad Minavand and Didier Angibeaud are either injured or ill, They are both expected to start and the defender Mario Posch has on the bench, while in defence, the a pulled a groin muscle. The Aus-Nigerian Taribo West may be trians will welcome back their lice in the early hours of Monday dropped following his ill-tempered international midfielder Hannes after they were involved in an

ago because of a leg muscle injury.

In Italy, the Argentine Ariel Ortega was suspended by Sampdoria after a drink-driving charge by police. Ortega's compatriot and teammate Gaston Cordoba and the Brazilian Cate were also suspend-

Ortega was charged with driving his Mercedes under the influence of alcohol His car was impounded and his driving licence confiscated. Cordoba was charged with public order offences after he allegedly screamed abuse at police. Cate was ed. The three were questioned by po- not charged. Sampdoria said all three would be banned for the league match at Lazio on Sunday.

tled president of the Russian Football Union, won his bid yesterday to keep control of Russian football for another five years. Koloskov, blamed by his opponents for a sharp decline in the fortunes of the Russian game. won 52 of the 64 votes cast after a session of the RFS that lasted more than nine hours. His main rival, Nikolai Tolstykh of the Russian Professional Football League, won eight votes.

GROUP A

Croatia Zagreb are second due to the score of their two matches against Ajax (0-0 and 1-0). Olympiakos Piraeus will win the group by beating or drawing against Zagreb. To win the group, Zagreb need to beat Olympiakos with a goal difference of at least three (ie 3-0, 4-1, 5-2 etc.), as the first match between the two teams ended with a 2-0 victory for the Greeks, who also have a higher number of the Greeks. two teams ended with 2-0 with 12-0 w Dutch would also reach 10 points in the final rankings. In that case the direct matches between all three teams would determine the group winner. Regardless of the goal average in their last match against Olympiakos, this method would be in Zagreb's favour if they win. Thus, the best Ajax can hope for is second place and a best runners-up slot. The Dutch champions will be without their Finnish striker Jari Limanen and the Georgian forward Shota Arveladze. ward Shota Arveladze.

KEY: E: Eliminated. Q: Qualified for quarter-finals. finals.

Results: Porto 2 Olympiakos 2: Croatia Zagreb O Ajax O: Olympiakos 2 Croatia Zagreb O: Ajax O: Olympiakos 2 Croatia Zagreb O: Ajax 2 Porto 1: Olympiakos 1 Ajax O: Porto 3 Croatia Zagreb O: Ajax 2 Olympiakos 0; Croatia Zagreb 3 Porto 1: Olympiakos 2 Porto 1: Ajax O Croatia Zagreb 1.

Remaining flutures: Today: Porto v Ajax Cros-ria Zagreb v Olympiakos.

GROUP B

Zamorano or Roberto Baggio.

GROUP B

Galatasaray and Rosenborg can win the group outright. If both teams win, the side winning by the greater margin would win the group, as both sides have recorded the same scores against each other. If both were to win by the same margin with the same scoreline, Galatasaray would advance as they would have the greater number of goals scored. If Rosenborg were to win by the same margin but score more than one goal more than Galatasaray, they would win the group. If the sides were to finish level on every criteria – points, goal difference and goals scored – Rosenborg would win the group on the basis of their greater national association co-efficient. If both sides win they will both qualify for the quarter-finals as the second-placed team's tally of 11 points would be sufficient to guarantee at least the runners to beth threater's rock thance to win ficient to guarantee at least the runners-up berth. Juventus's only chance to win the group is to beat Rosenborg in their last home match, hoping that Galatasaray lose. In this case Juventus would win the

maining flatures: Today: Arhietic Bilbao v ilatasaray: Juventus v Rosenborg Trondheim.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: GROUP-BY-GROUP GUIDE TO QUARTER-FINAL QUALIFICATION

GROUP C

GROUP D

Bayern Munich will win the group with a victory or a draw against Manchester United. On the other hand, United need a victory against the Germans to win the group. Such is United's goal difference +9 - that, even in the event of a defeat by Bayern, they still have a chance

Results so Par: Brondby 2 Bayern Munich 1: Manchester Urd 3 Barcelona 3: Barcelona 2 Brondby 0: Bayern Munich 2 Manchester Utd 2: Bayern Munich 1 Barcelona 0: Brondby 2 Manchester Utd 6: Barcelona 1 Bayern Munich 2: Manchester Utd 5: Brondby 0: Bayern Munich 2 Brondby 0: Barcelona 3 Manchester Utd 3. Resulations flustures: Taxlant Brondby v Barrelona 1 Manchester Utd 3. i**alizing fixtures: Today:** Brondby v Bar-na: Manchester Utd v Bayern Munich.

GROUP E

The winner of the match between Lens and Dynamo Kiev will win the group. If the two teams draw and Panathinaikos beat Arsenal in the other group match, the Greeks win the group thanks to the results in the direct matches between the three teams. If Panathinaikos do not beat Arsenal, a O-d draw would be enough for tens, thanks to the away goal scored in the other direct match against Dynamo in Klev. With a 1-1 draw, Dynamo would win the group thanks to their better overall goal difference. All the other draw scores (2-2, 3-3, etc.) would allow Dynamo to win the group thanks to the higher number of goals scored away from home in the direct matches against tens. The French club will have an all-tidet 41,000 crowd behind them, but three teams. If Panathinaikos do not beat ticket 41,000 crowd behind them, but

Kaiserslautern are the first and only team to have already qualified for the quarter-finals. In fact, the goal scored in the last minute of their match against Benfica in Lisbon allowed the Germans to secure Lison allowed the Germans to secure the group thanks to the away goal scored in the two direct matches against Benfica (1-0 at home and 1-2 in Lisbon). Benfica must hope that the results in the other than the context will allow than the context of the context of the context will allow than the context of na must hope that the results in the other five groups will allow them to eventual by qualify as one of the two best runners-up. PSV Eindhoven have a much more remote chance of qualifying as a best run-ner-up, especially at thier defence are leak-ing goals – six conceded in their last two domestic matches. In addition, neither Robert Fuchs nor Jurgen Dirkx are eligi-ble to play in Europe.

Raiserstautra (Q) 5 3 1 7 7 4 10
Bonika 5 2 1 2 6 7 7
PSV Eindhoven 5 2 0 3 8 9 6
HJK Helsinki (E) 5 1 2 2 6 7 5
Results so far: PSV Eindhoven 2 HJK Helsinki 1: Kaiserslautern 1 Benika 0: Benika 2 PSV
Eindhoven 1: HJK Helsinki 0 Kaiserslautern 0: HJK Helsinki 2 Benika 0: PSV Eindhoven 1 Kaiserslautern 2: Benika 2 HJK Helsinki 1 PSV
Eindhoven 3: Benika 2 HJK Helsinki 1: Kaiserslautern 3: PSV Eindhoven 1: HJK Helsinki 1: PSV
Eindhoven 3: Benika 2 Kaiserslautern 1.
Remaining fixtures: Today: PSV Eindhoven 1

QUALIFICATION

The six group winners will qualify, plus the two best runners-up. Within the groups, should two clubs finish equal on points after the six group matches, the following criteria will be applied to determine placings:

1 Greater number of points obtained in a creater number of points obtained in matches between the clubs in question.

2 Goal difference resulting from the matches between the clubs in question.

3 Greater number of goals scored away from home in matches between the clubs in question. in question.

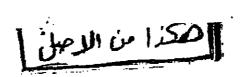
4 Superior goal difference from all matches played. 5 Greater number of goals scored. 6 National coefficient at the start of the sea-

The two best runners-up, who help make up the eight clubs contesting the quarter-finals, will be decided by these cri-

1 Number of points obtained in group

2 Goal difference from all group match-3 Greater number of goals scored in all

4 Greater number of goals scored away promises. 5 National association's coefficient at start 6 individual club's coefficient at start of



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Many top performers are frustrated with poor testing methods and demand harsher penalties to punish cheats

Authorities failing British sport's Paris Authorities failing British sport's Authorities failing British sport's Authorities failing British sport's Authorities of the BY NICK HARRIS of the more than a blind eye." He added that the more than the survey was that test, at major events and 'smust desting' all At the moment I would not expect the state of the survey was that test, at major events and 'smust desting' all At the moment I would not expect the state of the survey was that test, at major events and 'smust desting' all At the moment I would not expect the state of the survey was that test, at major events and 'smust desting' all At the moment I would not expect the state of the survey was that test, at major events and 'smust desting' all At the moment I would not expect the state of the survey was that test, at major events and 'smust desting' all At the moment I would not expect the state of the state of the survey was that test, at major events and 'smust desting' all At the moment I would not expect the state of the s

INEFFECTUAL GOVERNING bodies By NICK HARRIS that ignore drug abuse are contributing to the common problem of illegal drugs in sport, according to the country's leading sportsmen and women. The Independent's surshows élite sportsmen and women believe a range of drugs are being used and drug testing programmes are failing British sport.

The survey targeted more than 1,300 people from the top levels of sport - the most highly-ranked Lottery-sponsored athletes and swimmers, Premier League and Nationwide League footballers, first-class cricketers, Super League and Premiership One rugby players, leading flat and National Hunt jockeys, tennis players in the British top 40 and weightlifters of international standing. There were more than 300 respondents to the survey.

Of all those who replied, 13 per cent think steroids are being abused, rising to 47 per cent in rugby league, 31 per cent in rugby union and 16 per vey of drug use in British sport cent in athletics. Erythropoietin (EPO, a substance which increases the blood's oxygen-carrying capacity and was at the centre of this summer's Tour de France debacle), is cited as a problem by eight percent (27 per cent in athletics) and human growth hormone by eight per cent (19 per cent in athletics and 15 per cent in swimming).

Respondents called for improved testing methods and harsher penalties and feel current measures do not go far enough to combat the drugs problem. One 19-year-old rugby union player wrote: "Drugs are widely used in rugby union and officials – I have a feeling this is so

 turn a blind eye." He added that frequent testing needs to be introduced, randomly and without warning, especially in the off-season between April and August. "If a sport does not have a rigorous allyear round drug testing programme, with coverage from 16-years-old to senior level, then there should be a campaign by business sponsors to withdraw support from the sport.

"No government money, including Lottery cash, should be made available to such a sport. Put simply, if the papers do not take up the challenge then the sporting bodies will never act."

Many respondents in rugby echoed his views, calling for more random tests and fines for clubs as well as players to encourage team officials to tackle the problem. In rugby union 62 per cent of respon-



inappropriate and needed enforcing more effectively. In rugby league and swimming the corresponding figure approached 50 per cent and in ath-

ing was virtually non-existent in their experience. "Drug tests should be more frequent," one 30-year-old footballer said. "I have been tested once in 12 years. Testing does deter the use of drugs, although not to the in tennis, but many respondents to extent it should." A 20-year-old female tennis player, who said she has competed at 20 events internationally in the past year, revealed: "I have yet to see drug testers at any tournament." Her experience was not uncommon but testing away from competition is less likely still.

According to figures released by the Sports Council, the number of out of competition tests (conducted with no notice, away from events) in athletics last year was 602. In British football there were just two, in rugby league and cricket one apiece. There were none at all in rugby union, tennis or swimming. Testing

complaint in the survey was that test- at major events and 'squad testing' - pre-arranged visits to club training sessions - were more widespread (517 individuals in the year in football, 243 in rugby league, 139 in swimming, 126 in cricket and 21 the survey called for more.

More than 43 per cent of all respondents called for tighter rules, with many calling for blood tests in place of urine tests. Others went further, and one 34-year-old female athlete wrote: "Testing urine is a joke as distance runners use EPO which is undetectable. Either test blood or you may as well legalise all drugs. Let British athletes lead the way in blood testing by volunteering a blood sample and take a polygraph test and have all the results publicised.

"I bet there would be a reluctance on the part of a lot of athletes to do this. Clean the sport up once and for

Verroken

courage any child to take up athletics because of the hypocrisy of some of their so-called sports role models."

Fears that drug abuse could spread were also common. One footballer wrote: "In athletics I think it's out of control. Whenever someone wins a race on the track or comes first on the field I'm now not sure if their win was pure or assisted. I wouldn't like football to go that way. that's why regular testing - every player from every club every two to three weeks - is the only way to deter drug abuse, whether recreational or performance enhancing."

A 22-year-old female swimmer added: "Governing bodies must continue to work hard with science to try to get one step ahead of the drug users, if they really do want to catch them out, which I sometimes



Cheats are getting away, says Turner

WHEN ADRIAN TURNER heard the head of the International Olympic Committee say there might be case for shortening the list of prohibited substances in sport, his first thought was: "That's the biggest load of

rubbish I've ever heard." The 21-year-old swimmer, a finalist in the 400m individual medley at this year's Commonwealth Games. eded: "I felt sick when I beard him say that. He [Juan Antonio Samaranch, who later said all drugs harmful to health should remain on the banned list, but there might be a case for removing others] is the head honcho in the IOC and he was saying Take some off the list.' And I thought T'm the one who's got to race against

these people who use drugs' Like many young British sportsmen and women, Turner feels there are still people cheating in his sport glamorous side of sport. "It seems

Swimmer who has only been drug-tested twice in two years claims authorities could easily clean up the pool. By Nick Harris

it. "There is a fear of extensive testing by governing bodies because a 100 to be making a move to do so. I don't per cent sample might make a mockery of swimming if all of a sudden they came up with a 30 per cent positive test rate. Every time they catch someone, it's good for us clean athletes but it's also bad for swimming in general. People will say: 'here's another one in swimming, how bent is swimming?" The swimming federations do have a vested interest in keeping the number of positive tests to a minimum."

Turner added that some responsibility should lie with the rich corporate sponsors who pay huge amounts to be associated with the

What performance-enhancing drugs have you used?

Narcotic

sport are using?

Although tested twice while in Kuala Lumpur at the Commonwealth Games, Turner said testing in general leaves much to be desired. "Before the Games I hadn't been tested for two years. I wasn't tested in training, wasn't tested at any competitions. I could have been using any substances and I wasn't tested. It's not good enough. If I could get away with it, how many others are there

that might not be as clean as I am?" Drug use is a common topic of discussion within swimming, Turner said, as are the temptations to tion and acting on temptation, Turn-

hormones e.g. EPO

e.g. ephedrine, amphetamines

and what are the drugs you believe competitors in your

Diuretics EPO HGH* Sterolds Stimulants Testosterone

and feels not enough is done to stop scarily easy to me to be able to bend the rules. He recalled an inciclean up a sport but no one seems dent at the European Championships last year, less than 10 months after a Russian swimmer had been allowed to keep an Olympic medal despite having tested positive for a steroid masking agent. "My room-mate said to me if you could take something that

would make sure you got a guaranteed Olympic gold, and it had no side effects and you knew no one would ever catch you, would you take it?' And my instant reaction was of course not.' But my room-mate said 'I think you're lying mate' and I can see what he means.

The difference between tempta-

Cricket

Football

'jockeys ''includes

The temptations

Have you ever been

Athletics Cricket Football Horse racing*

Rugby union Rugby league Swimming

er said, was that he could not, with a clear conscience, happily beat someone by using illegal means. A life of training - he started competing at 12 and now trains up to nine times a week, swimming up to 10,000m a time - has also made him feel success should be earned, not merely swallowed.

"I've experienced winning, and the nightmare of losing. I couldn't force that nightmare upon them purely because I put a chemical into my body that they did not have."

He added: "I've competed in China and seen how little in the way of assets the man in the street has, and how a winning athlete in that country is comparable in Western terms to a millionaire national hero. The phrase 'nothing to lose' is startlingly applicable. So why do our punishments make it even more so?"

Would you take performance-

enhancing drugs if they were allowed?



Verroken: Drug-buster

mean success - can it be assumed tition. In theory, this means no no-

The samples, analysed by the Drug Control Centre in Chelsea, were carried out in 48 sports and yielded results that were 98.3 per

cent negative. Of the 79 cases where irregularities were reported, more than half were for stimulants. Anabolic agents, such as steroids, accounted for 16.5 per cent, refusals or nonavailability 17.7 per cent, and mari-

juana 10.1 per cent. That could be the national picture. But perhaps it will look very different when tests for the new vogue of hormone supplements, HgH and EPO, are found and introduced. In the meantime, Verroken's task is to marshal her forces as best she may.

After seven years of pleading to the Government - which supplies all al budget - has allowed them to go ahead and seek sponsorship for additional testing from national sporting governing bodies.

striving for zero defect

In spite of what the prophets of doom say, there are strides being made in the war against drugs. By Mike Rowbottom

Michele Verroken, director of the UK Sports Council's Anti-Doping programme - had a copy, was problematic. Waving the article with an expression that tested positive for traces of exasperation, Verroken pondered the best tactics.

The item claimed to purify urine "for four to five hours". Now why would anyone want to do such a thing? Would it, by any chance, be to avoid banned substances being detected in the event of having to give a urine sample to an officer working under Verroken's directhe intended donor. Another option, tion? Analysis was required to see not widely available, is to store

tempting to use it for cheating. rather than any purpose of random curiosity, would be exposed? And what if it did live up to its claims? Would that then require another loop of explanation or another long chemical name to be appended to the bulging list of substances and practices currently proscribed by the International Olympic Committee?

Such tortuous mental processes have become secroken as she has attempted to second guess any British sporting protagonists who might have a mind for a spot of illicit chemical assistance. How successful

is she? Verroken can never know. That is the nature of the game she is playing - testers in pursuit of cheaters where even positive results are am-

biguous. Do they that all those not testing positive are innocent? Not for sure. Last year, under Verroken's aus-

pices, the UK Sports Council doping programme carried out 4,574 tests. 3,752 of them in this country.

One certainty however is that figure of around 4,000 tests, which has been the pattern for the last 10 years, is going to increase.

"It has been a turning point," she wonder drug."

THE ADVERTISEMENT - of which said. "I feel very pleased about that because I hear what athletes are say-

ing about wanting more testing.

There are plans already being laid

for blood testing to be introduced in time for the 2000 Olympics. In the meantime however, the testers must rely upon urine samples. There are, however, a number of new approaches which Verroken and her colleagues are considering

The first is of DNA sampling, to find out more about the urine's make-up and to confirm it is that of if the product lived up to its claims. urine samples and produce a chem-But if it didn't - would it be bet- ical profile of each competitor. Such veal otherwise undetectable irregularities within a series of tests, even

if each one had proved negative. It is this kind of profile, indicating unusual variations in testosterone. which saw charges levelled against Mary Decker-Slaney this year.

But Verroken points out that such a system could also act as a safeguard for an athlete who shows up

a surprising positive. abroad. They would be able to call on their profile as a case for the defence.

The third variation on current practice being considered is testing urine samples for age, to ensure that they are not simply stored samples which have been catheterised into a competitor's blad-

der before a test. Of the tests carried out this year, a total of 877 were done out of compe-

tice, a knock on the door, a hand on the shoulder and accompaniment until the sample is produced. In practice, such instant opportunities do not always present themselves, although Verroken insists the majority of such testing has been either at no-notice or within one hour.

Unusual behaviour in those requested to comply is noted. There are those who become nervous, or try to delay giving a sample.

In such cases, random testing becomes targeted testing. As in the case of the Irish Olympic gold medallist Michelle Smith, the testers will make it their business to return.

Verroken's take on the booming phenomenon of creatine echoes the BOA line.

"We get a lot of enquiries about creatine," she said. "A lot of people are concerned about it. Of course, it is not prohibited. But we are talking carefully to the people who know best - the sports nutritionists and physiologists.

Apart from doubts over possible long-term side-effects. Verroken points to another worrying factor -"maybe you have found yourself but £190,000 of the unit's £1m annu- not improving in performance. so your answer is to change your level of creatine. That's the danger, not just of creatine, but of anything that comes along as the so-called new

TOMORROW RUGBY'S DRUG PROBLEM

16 you believe take performance-enhancing drugs? Figures are percentages of respondents' replies Up to 30 30-60 per cent 60 per cent Horse racing 12 54 25 ""Includes power lifting o you believe performance-enhancing drugs are widespread in your sport igures are percentages of respondents' replies

These findings are compiled from responses to a questionnaire The Independent sent to more than 1,300 leading British sportsmen and women. There were more than 300 responses. The results reflect experiences of competitors in nine sports: athletics and competitors from both sports). Cricket (players from first-class counties). football (Premier League and Nationwide League), horse racing (leading jockeys), rugby league (Super League), rugby union (Premiership One), tennis (all Britons in top world 1,000) and

sports, cycling and rowing, the governing bodies declined the invitation to take part. In boxing and snooker the response rates fell below 10 per cent and the results are not included. Participants were able to reply anonymously, but were invited to give

Are the drugs regulations in

your sport appropriate?

Likely lads nearing their half century

Clive Brittain, who trained Pebbles, and his head lad Michael Leaman still need each other, now they are 64. By Sue Montgomery

Clive Brittain and his good friend Michael Leaman celebrated nearly half a century together in racing. One is famous as the trainer of equine celebri-Friendly, the other famous only within the bounds of the stable yard that housed them.

But Brittain is only too conscious of the debt that he and other behind-the-scenes professionals. Behind every successful front-man there is a dedicated team, and Brittain led the applause as one of the squad picked up the award for Stable Lad of the Year at the Horserace Writers Association annual luncheon.

Stable lad is rather an anachronism of a term that can refer to both the callowest, most ham-fisted youth that ever laid hold of a bridle and the experienced, trustworthy men without whom no racing stable would exist. Leaman is Brittain's bead lad in charge of feeding, and that old adage about an army marching on its then that film put it in my stomach is redoubled in spades mind. I was small, after all, and

TWO MEN, two lives, one pas- where racehorses are con- weighed about five stone." sion. On Monday in London cerned. No athlete can perform well on the wrong rations, particularly the finicky thoroughbred version.

Brittain and Leaman, both now 64, joined Noel Murless at ties like Pebbles and User Beckhampton in Wiltshire within a few months of each other as raw school-leavers. Brittain's story, how he worked his way up the ranks, set himself up on the proceeds of his his ilk owe to Leaman and betting and went on to train the winners of five English Classics, has oft been told.

Leaman's tale has more of a twist in it. Dawlish-born, he was already aware of horses linch-pins of his Carlburg before the film Rainbow Jacket prompted the idea of a glorious career as a jockey. His first ride came when, as a tiny tot, he scrambled up on to the broad back of one of the shire horses on the farm where his grandfather worked. His second was less comfortable, on a donkey on a schoolfriend's farm. "We'd get on it in the field bareback and it would run to the gate," he said, "but I never lasted that far. I'd never really thought of riding properly, but

Enquiries at the local labour exchange led to a month's trial at Beckhampton. The little Devon lad was immediately told off for frightening the horses as he clattered round the cobbled yard in his hob-nails, but his feeling for horses and his diligence were immediately apparent and he easily earned the proper horseman's jodhpur boots given to those who signed indentures.

Leaman did eventually don bright jockey silks, just the once. But he had soon realised that his destiny might not, after all, be on the track in what. is perceived as the glamour part of the sport. "I simply love looking after horses," he said, "dressing them over, getting to know them, seeing them shine with health. I didn't know I did until I went into racing, but think I must get it from my grandfather. He was never happier than when he was showing those shires, or getting

them ready to show." Leaman and Brittain both moved with Murless to Newmarket but then their paths diverged. Rather to Murless's annoyance, for he lost a man

Michael Leaman, head lad to the trainer Clive Brittain, tends to his charge at the Carlburg stable in Newmarket

who had become a valued work-rider, National Service interrupted Leaman's career when he was 20, just after he had had his first ride in public, umplaced on Meerschaum in an apprentice contest at the 1954 Craven meeting.
The break was ostensibly for

only a couple of years but actually for 16, for when Leaman came out of the army, having learned to cook and to box, his family circumstances meant be had to stay in the West Country.

gard in which Murless held him that, during the few weeks he returned to headquarters to install his young brother Tony now one of Geoff Wragg's senior men - at Warren Place he slotted back into his former role and was given the responsibility of partnering one of the yard's best two-year-olds, Crepello, the following year's

But it says much for the re- 11 years he spent in a Westonsuper-Mare shoe factory. "Anyone who thinks racing is a hard life," he said, "should have tried working for Clarks in the making department in the heat, noise and smell of

And when Brittain started training, he came back to horses. He names the St Leger winner Julio Mariner as the best tential trouble in the form of an Derby winner, on the Heath he has looked after, and uneaten oat. Leaman did not enjoy his time Supreme Leader as the out of racing, particularly the bravest.

might have been as he re- one horse, just to keep his flects on the career as a jock- hand in. "I like to have a horse ey that was cut short by the to look after," he said "My intricacies of fate. He was - and horse. And I find that I do is - a good reinsman and still rides work but has found last- the old way, just as I was ing satisfaction in his contri- taught. It's second nature bution elsewhere. He is first in somehow." the yard of a morning - at 3.30am during the season - and the first to spot any sign of po-

His day generally ends later friend."

There is a hint of what than it might, for he still does spend time strapping him, in

Brittain's tribute to his old comrade sums it all up. "He is the most reliable man I have ever met." the trainer said, and I am proud to be called his

LEICESTER

1.00 BOWCLIFFE COURT (nap) 2.30 Perryman 3.00 Everything's Rosy 3.30 Quelque Chose 1.30 Lets Be Frank 2.00 Fabulon

GOING: Chase course - Good; Hurdle course - Soft. GOING: Chase course - Good; Hurdle course - Soft.

Pright-hand, undulating course, Run-ri of 250yds.

Course is 2m SE of city off AB. Leicester station (London, St Paricras - Sheffield ine) 2m ADMISSION: Club £13; Tattersells £10 (OAPs £6; Pictuc car park £25 admits car and four occupants. Free racecards. CAR PARK: Free.

ELADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 19-71 (268%) D Nicholason 10-49 (204%), Mrs. J Pitman 9-44 (20.5%), N Henderson 8-29 (276%), N Twiston-Davies 7-28 (25%).

ELADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy £2 (308%), A Magniter 12-59 (20.3%), M A Fizgerald 9-47 (511%), J Osborne 7-35 (194%), G Bradley 7-39 (175%), W Marston 7-59 (10.1%).

FAVOURITES: 89-263 (33.8%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Perryman (visored, 2.30), Winn's Pride (3.30).

1.00 OAK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £3,028

· 1635 MISS ONDEE (FR) (116) (D) (C M. B.J.& R.F. Banarham) M Ppe 4 개 리. A P McCoy - 1URRIL HOUSE (182) (CD) (J Hawrsley) W Museo: 6 및 근 N Williamson 4435: BOWCLEFFE COURT (6) (CD) (A D Spence) J Archurst 6 및 Э S Durack

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Miles Onder: Returns after an absence of over 3 months, but sure to be fit enough.
Won handicaps at Newton Abbot and Stratford in June and though on a higher mark
now may have benefited from the break.
Turrill House: Won over course and distance last December. Appeared not to stay
3m when tailed off at Uttoweter in June and will probably need the run
Bowcliffe Court: Made a promising reappearance last month when 5th to Saturday's
Sandown winner Papo Khaisma. Won over this trip here last week and misses a penalry as that was a conditionals race. Likely to follow up
Shahranit: Selling harder, sold out of Martin Pipe's yard after warning at Towcester in
May. Has shown little in 3 runs for new yard this season, but has been dropped 10b
Suramonn: Missed last season, but won a novice hurdle at Ludlow (good to firm) at
March of last year. Also won 4 races on the Flat in Italy, but long layoff against him
Erriny: Made all to win a 2m handicap hardle at Hexham (heavy) last morth. Has been
rased 5b, but is surted by a testing course and may prove hard to peg back
High Low: Selling hurdler nowadays, but seems on the downgrade and has been
dropped 10b this season. 3rd in a Hexhad seller last time does not look good enough
VERDICT: Miles Ondee is sure to be straight enough on her first outping for over

VERDICT: Miss Ondee is sure to be straight enough on her first outing for over three months, but looks to have it all to do in giving 15th to BOWCLIFFE COURT. Fifth to Papo Kharisma in a race that his worked out well last month, he made all to win here last week and runs off the same mark.

1.30 SPRUCE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,340

D. BELASIS BOY (237) (Osborne House Limited) R Lee 8 10 12 R. Johnson 100-PP CUMBERIAMD YOUTH (60) Mess C JE Carrel) Mess C Carce 7 10 12 D. Leshy 30-FERRYMALL (299) (Mes R A Humphres) Mess H Knight 5 10 12 J. J. Culledy 500-980 FONTAINE FABLES (18) (Mes S L Serviceth) E L. James 8 10 12 J. R. Kawanagh B 50008 GAVASKAR (16) (Ren of Dismonde Partineship) Mess S Baxter 9 10 12 Gary Lyone Prüss. LETS EFRANK (16) (D) (BF) (Mes M M Stoker) N Chance 7 10 12 S. Durack 312-F3 MATINE PLAYER (16) (Netholac Cooper) R Pows 6 10 12 N WITE FRANK (16) (D) (D) (Mes John Speiman) P Murphy 6 10 12 R Femant 19/473 SHU GAA (20) (R M Kitidand) J Madrie 5 10 12 E Hosband

10 50361/ SYMPHONY'S SON (629) (b) (Mrs J Moutó) D Nicholson 7 10 12 A Maguire
11 008- TIME TO PARLEZ (347) (Mrs J Strangs) C Orese 7 10 12 P Holsey
12 1223- TRISTRAM'S MAGE (NZ) (277) (8F) (S Keeling) N Henderson 7 10 12. M A Fizgeraid
12 declared 12 declared 15 ETTING: 2-1 Lats Be Frank, 7-2 Symphony's Son, 5-1 Native Player, 6-1 Tristram's Image, 8-1
Shoa Gas., 10-1 Ferryhill, 12-1 Resignmentous, 20-1 Fontaine Fables, Belastis Boy, 33-1 others
1997 Druzé Dancer 7 10 12 A P McCoy 4-6 lay (M Pops) 4 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Belasts Boy: By Buckskin, he finished talled off on his only outing lost season in a bumper at Cheltenham in April. Stable in form, though an unknown quantity. Cumbertand Youth: Placed once from 5 outings over hundles last season and talled to finish in 4 runs over tences. Pulled up in both outings this season, (including a class) Ferryhillt. Third in a bumper at Ludiow last season, he was tailed off on his only outing over hundles in February. Stable do well with their novice chasers, so likely to improve over fences Fontaine Fables: Had some fair form in Ireland and was sold out of Noe! Meades

Fontaine Fables: Had some fair form in Ireland and was sold out of Noel Meades yard for 18,000gns last year. Well behind in both outings this season, may do better Gewaster: Disappointing hurdler/chasse. Was having his first race since September and first for new stable when tailed off 6th in a novice chase at Ludlow last month Lats Be Franic Won twice over hurdler last season and made his chasing debut at Market Raser last month when 3rd to Fanfaron and Nid Dee. The runner-up won at Wetherby on Saturday, so he looks to have sound prospects Native Player: Smart hurdler, but fell at the first on his chasing debut at Kempton last month Seaton 34 leaster the very season.

ast month. Beaten 24 lengths when 3rd in a Chepstow novice chase last time and Regumesque: Custe useful hurdler, but lightly raced last season. Was having his first race since November 1997 when 3rd to Climbra and Strong Arrow on his first outing over because of Monunity last meets. Should use a series before the Shu Gaz: Won over hurdes for Oliver Sherwood, but missed last season. Did not appear to stay 2m 4f when 3rd in a Warwick novice chase last month and the more

appear to stay 2m 4f when 3rd in a Warwick nowce chase last month and the more demanding course may find him out again.
Symphony's Sont: Has not run since winning an Ascot novice hurdle (2m 4f) by an intpressive 11 lengths in March 1997. Reported to have echooled well and can go close Time To Parlez: Chasing type, but lightly raced and title sign of ability in 3 outlings over hurdles so far. Has not run since last December.
Tristrent's Interget: Winning hurdler and ran Dividi Dancer to 1/2 length on his chasing debut in this race last year. Seemed to find the going too testing when 3rd at Newbury (heavy) next time, but has not run since March.

VERDICT: Symphony's Son is interesting but it may be safer to rely on the proven fitness of LETS BE FRAMK. Noil Chance's useful hundler tred three out in the heavy ground when third on his chasing debut at Market Rasen last month, but that was a fair effort considering that Neil Dee (2nd) won at Wetherby on Saturday.

2.00 CHESTNUT CONDITIONAL SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m Penalty Value £1,940

- 8 declared -BETTING: 11-10 Febulan, 5-2 Weish Mountain, 11-2 Lord Frederick, 8-1 Inclination, 14-1 Old Gold N Tan, 25-1 Remember Star 1997: Once More For Luck 6 11 5 G Lee 2-5 fav (Mrs M Reveley) 7 ran

1997: Once More For Lock 6 ti 5 G Lee 2-5 far (Mis M Reveley) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

Fabution: Wion a 25-runner selling hurdle (no bid) at Worcester in Juna. Returned from a 12-week break when 8th to Kiling Time in a Taunion selling handicap hurdle lest month and looks to have an easy task.

Lord Frederick: Little sign of ability in 3 outings over hurdles as a 4yo and missed next 2 seasons. No improvement in 2 nune this term, but runs in seller for the first time. Old Gold N Tam: Placed truce over hurdles tast season when trained by Jernile Poul-tion. Disappointing in sellers for new yater (tes been tred in birkers) and did not appear to stay 2m if when 8th at Hereford last month. Welch Mountain: Who over 7 is Carisle in August and was dropped into selling company for the first time over hurdles when 2nd to Rejatl at Ludlow last month. Sound chance providing this more testing course doesn't stretch his stamista inclination: Third in a claimer at Phampton last month; she returned there to finish 4th in a smiler event last week. Raced mainly at around 1m on the Flat (won once from 31 outings) and doubt about her stamina.

Remember Start Has not run since tailed off in a maiden hunde at Newton Abbett in June. Poor form in sellers last term and would have more chance in hardscap VERDICT: Weish Mountain is not really bred to stay two miles and this weak event presents a golden opportunity for FABULON, who would have a harder task in a handicap. The only winner over hurdles in the line-up, there are no doubts about his stamina as he was successful over two and a half miles at Plumpuri lass season.

2.30 SYCAMORE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £3,720

O declared ### Penrymen, 7-2 Swing Quertet, 8-1 Debt Of Honor, 7-1 Sister Rosza, 8-1 Frazer Island, 10-1 King Of The Borren, 12-1 Merting Dreem, 14-1 others

1997. Who is Enurance 7 to 0 M A Pizzperad 9-2 (A) Penderson 6 zan

FORM GUIDE Rom 4 hough clother shot was selected in the mark. Solided by easy Surface—Merlins Dream. Three-time writer in 1996-97 (gales) from the mark, but staking a Merlins Dream. Three-time writer in 1996-97 (gales) from the mark, but staking a since pulling up laine at Market Rasen 15 months ago Best watered on return Distinctive: Disappointing last term after three was in 1996-97. 41 lengths 6th of 7 to Sena Bay at Humangdon (2m 41 hough th, good to family or mature and raid to family Coverded Lanes Inconsistent. Winner from 25th higher at Transcesser 12 months ago but must have stiff course at this trip. Needed race when pulsed up or comesser. Sister Rossa: 15-length Bangor winner last November from 15th higher 5th of underlined the Selected Rossa: 15-length Bangor winner last November from 15th higher 5th of underlined number of the past and is one to consider. Acts on soft on complete the Market Bangor (2m 4) from 5th on complete the National Color of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996). Auto Pillot Useful november the 1996-95 for Jenny Barres 7th without the Properties of the Properties of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996). We not the Properties of the Properties of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996) and the Properties of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996). The selected Rossa (1996-1996) and the Properties of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996) and the Properties of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996). The Properties of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996) and the Properties of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996) and the Properties of the Selected Rossa (1996-1996). The Selected Rossa (1996-1996) and th

run well here in the past and is one to consider. Acts on soft Auto Pilot Useful novoe chaser in 1994-55 for Jerny Barris (Im. without here). Warry tower hunders small expectable (thin of 22 to Papo Kharisma at Chelterham 2m 51, good) on latest start. Unknown quantity but worth a check of the pering King Of the Burners Distant 2nd to Red Marauder at Sedge-led last month and not living up to last seasons promise. Held by Pernyman on Towester numbing in Vay Pernyman: Geme Ascot winner from Bank Avenue in April Often faces rapidly oose home and caught last standes by Knights Crest at Lundow (2m hoap on good) ast time (form worked out very well), interesting prospect in visor for fast time Debt Of Homori C/D winner from Phatetic in March. Up to best when one-paped 7 lengths 2nd to Church Law over C/D last time but bugfier task here. Swing Quantat: Well in on Worcester 4-length 2nd to Bank Avenue in September but below best when 12-length 3nd of 8 to Brook Bee at Towcester (3m 11 hoap ch. good) on latest start. Returning from 9-week lay-off and not one to rely on

VERDICT: Auto Pliot, who had decent chase form four seasons ago presents a problem for backers, particularly with the Henderson yard in form. but SISTER ROSZA is a more reliable prospect. Sile looked as good as ever on her return and showed with her win over Teinein at Bangor last November she can win from this marri.

3.00 ASH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m filles & mares Penalty Value £2,924

FORM GUIDE

Daughter in Lawr. 3rd in poor Hereford novice in June but pulsed up 3 cut in race won by Lotschberg Express at Windsor (2m4) nov hoap hole, good to soft) latest Everything's Rosy: Authors mare. Useful form in bumpers at Oheltenham and Here-

Everything is Rose: Authors mark. Useful form in bumpers at Chellenham and Here-tand and one to note in the market.

Forest Mill: Signs of ability when 31 lengths 4th to Symonds lim at Market Rasen.

2m til nov hibe, heavy) but disappointing latest and expeats to have to all to do
Galice Paped in numerous occasions in 12 starts over hurtles and tendes in France
Carned add in numerous occasions in 12 starts over hurtles and tendes in France
Carned add 2 lengths 2nd of 14 to Royal Hoc at Englise (2m31 hide, good to soft)

(ast week (later demoted to 5th). Commands respect on first run for Martin Pipe
Milli Orchid: Moderate marten on Flat for Jack Berry. Will need to introve a good

deal on defund 2 lengths 5th of 30 to Heart at Haydock (2m now hole, good to soft)

My Desperador: Useful 15 Fac handicapper. Career-best effort when 9 length 3nd

of 14 to Medium Fank at Catteriok (2m35) on return. Go close on this shorter trip.

Outhane: Disappointing middle-distance handicapper on Flat. Tailed off on tetest all
weather start. Hurtles debut

Cobane: Disapporting magaz-custance resourcepts of the state Hurtles debut weather start. Hurtles debut without it May, 1996. First outing since when 44 lengths 5th of 6 to Time For A Glass at Worcester (2m now hole, heavy). Plenty to find. Tempestations Lady: Won three Irish points in 1997. Promising debut when 10 lengths 6th of 10 to Besse Browne at Hurtlegdon (2m5) now hole, pood) 13 months ago Vallant Memory: Tauston burnost womer last term on firm, but little show on War-stok return. Related to a hurtles witner and worth noting in betting on jumps debut VERDICT: My Desperado's effort in a weak Catterick contest puts her head and shoulders above the experienced opposition. It is reasonable, however, to expect an improved effort from TEMPESTUOUS LADY, who disappointed when heavily backed her Huntingston debut last term. Her stable is in brilliant form and she could be one to denn Martin Pittes new activishing Gelfix.

3.30 BIRCH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,002

201 4F 110yOS PERRITY VAIDE 23,0022

201 ROYALE ANGELA (FR) (14) (0) Checke; 1 Needle; 2 Needle; 2 Needle; 2 Needle; 2 Needle; 3 Needle;

Major's Law, 10-1 Royale Angela, 16-1 Winn's Pride. 1967: Beed fied Flyer 6 til 6 G Tomey 9-4 fav (V Cay) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Royale Angele: Four-time winner in the mud last term (latest namowly from 5tb lower).
Diseptionting return at Chepstow and Rely to need another sharplener.
Teastral: Viel-treated on last season's Punchestown 2nd to Ferbet Jursor, but disapporting 6th of 9 (weak in market) to Ela Agapt Mou et Newbury (2m 5f hoap hole, good to sort) on reappearance. Strip fitter here and one to consider Knock Leader: Progressive Lingfield and Falkenham winner for Martin Pipe last term.
Promising commeback wither unseated noter 2 out when going well in race won by Harry et Taution (2m 3f hoap hole, good) Major contender off the same mark Molsum: Failed to line up to promise of Towcester reappearance when 13 lengths 2nd of 4 to World Express over C/D. 3lb lower here and one to consider Capitalia Jack: Formerly smart Flat stayer and winner of weak Kempton handicap hurde from 3tb higher 23 months ago. Showed some of his old ability when 10th in the Cessarewitch in October, but not one to take a short price about Major's Law: Three-time winner in week company last term, latest success by 20 Major's Law: Three-time winner in week company tast term, latest success by 20 langths over GID from 6th lower. Possibly on handy mark, but ran moderately on Flat last week

cast ween Qualque Chosa: Lightly-raced, but well backed on comeback when bin 6 lengths by Arctic Chariter in Exeter 2mit seller, 27 lengths clear of 3rd. Not out of it, Witmas Price: Unioner 2m4 witmer from 8th higher in June and fair 2nd to Soldier Mak there in October, but has run poorly last 2 starts

VERDICT: It could pay to keep faith with TEAATRAL, who still appe treated on his insh form and faces less formidable opposition than on his reappear-ance. He was going well 3 out at Newbury, but capitulated quickly and will probably stip a lot fitter here. Blodsum, Knock Leader and Quelque Chose are difficult to separate among the remainder.

Savill issues threat to off-course bookies

THE NEED for greater financial BY GREG WOOD input into racing was among the familiar themes of Peter Savill's address to the Gimcrack dinner at York last night. Referring to racing is between racehorse his Financial Plan, Savill said putting the sport on "a firm financial footing" was "the major challenge facing us all." The word conspicuous by its

absence from the address was "punter," despite the predictable call for a "substantial increase in the percentage of betting turnover returned to racing". The BHB chairman also

FIRST SHOW

LEICESTER 2.30							
Horse	C	Н	L	5	T		
Репуприя	3-1	7-2	4-1	10-3	18-3		
Debt Of Honor	41	9-2	7-2	92	9-2		
Swing Counted	41	9-2	4-1	7-2	4-1		
Sister Rosza	11-2	9-2	6-1	92	4-1		
K. Of The Burns	84	8-1	B-1	8-1	52		
Frazer Island	8-1	9-1	B-1	9-1	9-1		
Auto Pilot	12-1	12-1	10 -1	12-1	12-1		
Coverdale Lene	14-1	12-1	14-1	14-1	14-1		
Merkos Dream	14-1	10-1	10-1	14-1	14-1		
Distinctive	18-1	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1		
Each way, a little the odds, places 1, 2, 3							

C Coral H Wilson Hill L Lactoroles, S Starley T Total

claimed "the key relationship in owners and racecourses, the performer and venue of the racing show." Savill also threatened a

"spectator friendly" fixture list, benefiting racecourses rather than off-course bookmakers, if

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Rififi (Lingfield 3.10) NB: Fabulon (Leicester 2.00)

an acceptable levy agreement is not negotiated within the next three months. The betting industry argues such a policy... would have a negative effect on the levy," Savill said. "We beg to differ." If he is wrong, the consequences for the funding of racing could be disastrous. Potter's Bay misses the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham to run at Doncaster.

■ Today's meeting at Hexham

is off because of waterlogging.

LINGFIELD

HYPERION 12.10 Magic Memories 12.40 Sharp Shuffle 1.10 Jellybeen (nb) 1.40 Danzino 2.10 Hawaii Storm 2.40 Roman Reel 3.10 Riffif 3.40 Kose-

GOING: Standard. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low.

Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course. E Course is SE of town on B202s. Ungfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Cub 213, Family Enclosure 210. CAR PARIC: Cub 23; remainder free.

ELEADING TRANSERS: G L Moore 91-700 (13%), M Johnston 53-302 (175%), R Hannon 52-402 (129%), Lord Humingdon

48-239 (2014).

LEADING JOCKEYS: J Weaver 83-397 (209%). L Dettori
77-334 (231%). A Clark 77-851 (18%). R Coctware 69-400 (73%).

FAVOURITES: 782-2360 (333%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Royal Terragon (12:10), Wonderbo (12:40), Private Seal (2:10).

12.10 CELEBRATE AT LINGFIELD CLAIMING STAKES (F) £3,000 added 2YO 7/ 400 SPLIT THE ACES (162) R Hermon 93 Dame O'North 12

- 14 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Magigue Stolle, 4-1 Jazznic, 9-2 Paddock Inspection, 6-1 Dana

FORM VERDICT Jazznic will be difficult to beat if he sees out the extra furlong. However it usually pays to stick with those drawn low at this track and DONE AND DUSTED could not have won more easily at Southwell last time and has the best draw of the tan-

12.40 TRADE SHOWS AT LINGFIELD SELLING STAKES (G) (DIV 1) \$2,500 71

10280 ASTAAL (28) (D) Wra N Maccaley 8 9 4 . P Fredericks (7) 12 V 00235 MEADOW LEADER (108) (D) C Dond(E2) 8 9 4 P Roberts (S) 4 140216 SALTY BEHAMOUR (7) (C) (D) (BF) P Exars 4 9 4 Culture 9 13002 SHARP SHUFFLE (47) (D) R Hannon 5 9 4 ... Dane O'Nell 11 10 386 ASTRAL INVADER (283) (D) M Sauncles 6 8 12 ... R Price 8 000038 BARRER RIDGE (15) GL Moore 4 8 12 ... Candy Monrie 10 8 020400 BMPERATOR (84) GL Moore 3 8 12 ... P Dobbe (7) 8

FORM VERDICT
SALTY BEHAVIOUR lies the best recent form and is taken

1.10 SPONSOR A RACE FOR 1999 NURSERY HANDICAP (E) £3,750 added 2YO 1m HANDICAP (E) £3,750 added 2YO 1m

1 0001 JELUBEEN (23) Mas G Kalisney 97 S Drotene 6
2 0542 WOLET (12) Lord Huningcon 97 M Ryan 7
3 00055 OO EE BE (22) (CD) A 1 Marphy 98 A McGione 9
4 543 BALUMORIES BOY (14) J Pearce 8 2 R Price 8
5 004 ORBITAL STAR (32) Pheris 92 A Cultane 1
6 50050 DAMOND GEEZER (46) R Harnon 90 Dame O'Nells 2
7 0058 PERSE (29) G L More 8 3 J Faming 3
8 5605 SWING JOS (14) T Mile 8 B L L Center 12
9 0051 ANNE APPLE (100) R Harnon 8 6 T Speake 11
0 005 SWIPLY MACCAL (44) P Machel 6 7 N Day 4
10 005 AZHAMA (JSA) (14) N Gratem 8 5 A Clark 5
2 505022 LOVE DAMONDS (8) (8) R) M Jorsson 8 5 G Barthwell 10
12 declared BETTING: 3-1 Love Diamonds, 6-1 Jelybeen, Violet, 13-2 Oo Ee Ba, 6-1
Orbital Star, Annie Appla, 10-1 Ballymoris Boy, 12-1 others
FORM VERDICT

There has to be a doubt as to how well the in-form Love Dismends will handle the track, especially from his wide draw.
Protenence is for VIOLET, who ran well when second in a 71
runsery here on her AW debut, Marying the impression there
is better to come over today's longer trip. A market move for
Skr Perse would be interesting.

1.40 CALL SALES & MARKETING STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 2f FORM VERDICT An excellent apportunity for the front-running DANZINO to score another piles-to-post success. White Plains may do better under his optimum conditions and may pip First Master for the runner-up benth.

2.10 TRADE SHOWS AT LINGFIELD SELLING STAKES (G) (DIV II) \$2,500 71

Kolby could win this but, that one may be better at shorter and is not that wall drawn, consequently a chance of laken on WOR'S DEED, who goes well at the track and has the assistance of Dane O'Neil.

2.40 ARCHITON CURRIE & BROWN H'CAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m 2f FORM VERDICT

Cuestion marks against many of these including Tropical Beach (track), Byzantikam (no visor). Pas De Memoiree and Rainbow Rain (trip), so this may not be so competitive as it appears at first glance. HUGWITY, a winner at this distance in 1996, has left the strong impression on his last two starts that this trip is what he needs on the AW and can prove the point

3.10 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY H'CAP (E) (DIV I) £4,000 added 7f

FORM VERDICT

FORM VEHDICT

This return to 71 should sut Best Quest white C&D winners
Big Ben and Shades Of Love have also to be respected. But
it might be worth taking a chance on ROISIN SPLENDOUR,
who looks the type to take to racing round here and who is
on a potentially very depent mark.

3.40 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY H'CAP (E) (DIV II) £4,000 added 7f

FORM VERDICT

TURN VEHILL:

This may be best left to KOSEVO, who can gain compensation for his near miss at 61 here on Monday over the furlong songer trip he has gained both his wins. Buthritio and Ceverafield both ran well in earlier qualifiers here but are not easy to catch right, and a bigger danger may come from Phillister.

Ramprakash sets himself up as target

MODERN CRICKET tours have no time for sympathy these days and just hours after England had drawn their game against Victoria, Graham Thorpe was winging his way back to London. But if that wasn't alarming enough for one day a nose to nipple confrontation between Mark Ramprakash and the 6ft 10in tall Ashley Gilbert added an unnecessarily controversial note to the final day's play.

While Thorpe was busy packing his bags for the flight home. Ramprakash, rarely the coolest of customers, was off-loading his own verbal baggage after Dean Headley had bounced the tall bowler first ball. On the previday, when England had led. Gilbert had sledged Ramprakash, giving the Middiesex captain a double dose when he got him out mistiming a pull shot to mid-wicket while

Whatever was said on that occasion – allegedly it was no Anglo-Saxon expressions - it clearly niggled away at Ramprakash, who ran in from cover to have his say; Gilbert and Headley having already exchanged. presumably, differing viewpoints.

Although part and parcel of the game in Australia, the intensity with which Ramprakash nothial bluster and it needed Alec Stewart, the England captain, to step in and defuse it.

Later Stewart tried to play the whole thing down by calling it the "Little and Large show" claiming that "it looked a lot worse than it was".

1995 | 1995 | 24. | 1972

guired (40°°)



Thorpe (centre) announces that his tour is over

BY DEREK PRINGLE in Melbourne

England 373 & 207-5 dec Victoria 300 & 245-8 Match drawn

pire saw fit to lodge a code of conduct report. But if Ramprakash's actions were not sanctioned by authority, they will not have gone unnoticed by Australia, who are merciless at exploiting an opponent's weaknesses, be it emotional or technical. As Ramprakash has batted well against them in the Tests, some serious sledging could well be in the offing.

Curiously, emotion was the one thing largely missing when the England management announced Thorpe's departure. While his team-mates teased and tempted Victoria into chasing a target of 280, the Surrey man gave a curiously matter-offact press conference. "The more colourful than a series of Ashes is the biggest series we get to play in and it's a big disappointment to take no further at Test level. part," Thorpe said. "Obviously, I'd have liked to help the team get back into the series, but when your time's up you have to go and I wish the lads well."

Including A tours, Thorpe has represented England on each of the last nine winter his point went beyond the tours. It is a vast amount of playing and travelling to have undertaken and any disappointment may well have been cancelled out by a sub-conscious feeling of relief.

The impact on England's morale, if not devastating, could not have come at a worse time. Despite the testosterone, it and England's hopes of clawing

With the clock not ticking so

overs. At one stage, just after the Ramprakash incident, Stewart set a "Bodyline" field to Gilbert with four short legs crowding the batsman. If it was a success in 1932 under Douglas Jardine, it proved fruitless here, though England had dropped

left-hander to oversee the middle order. Surprisingly for a tour where little has gone right and bad backs have been as common as bad batting, no replacement has been summoned. It is a risky situation to be in

and England's only contingency, should a batsman be injured in the next day or so, is to call on someone already playing in the general area. Adam Hollioake, currently in Perth. and Vince Wells, busy playing in New Zealand, are two players mentioned by Stewart who fit that particular bill.

Bodies can only stand so much, something administrators with their plans of increasing the amount of international cricket do not seem to understand. But if things are not likely to improve over the short term the ECB plans to play up to seven Tests and at least five oneday internationals from the year 2000 - Thorpe is determined to be part of England's future and he scotched suggestions that this might be his last appearance

"I don't think I'm at the age for hanging my boots up yet. he said. "It's really a question of sitting down and going back to the workshop and getting it right. It doesn't feel as chronic as it felt before I had the operation, so with time and effort I plan to put in, I hope to get there as soon as possible."

Thorpe's condition, described by the England physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, as "non-specific lower back pain", comes from instability and weakness in the lower back. something he will have to improve with strengthening ex-

nsistently, Thorpe at least has time, something England ran out of in their bid to bowl out Victoria in 67 overs. Declaring overnight, they set their opponents 280 runs to win on a As draws go, it held the interest right up until the final few

Crawley back into the frame. England are probably no closer to playing a spinner in Adelaide than they were at Perth. Robert Croft may have taken three wickets, but his efforts were not those of a spinner with three catches earlier in the day. the ability to bowl out sides in

But if the match provided a the last innings of a game. Inunchallenging that Stewart kept Croft on when he wanted Thorpe's injury bringing John to keep Victoria in the hunt after they had lost wickets.

Victoria's Ashley Gilbert (right) and England's Mark Ramprakash engage in a frank exchange of views

Unless he plans to do the same to Australia, Stewart is probably better off playing four seamers, with Headley, who bowled well against Victoria, coming in for the erratic Do-

Final day of four; England won toss ENGLAND - First lanings 373 (A J Stewart 126, M R Ramprakash 78, G A Hick 67).

VICTORIA - First Innings 300 (S A J Craig 83no, P J Roach 80: D W Headley 5-58). ENGLAND - Second lanings 207 for

5 dec (1 P Crawley 68).

VICTORIA – Second Innings
M P Mott c Hick b Hollioake

J M Davison c Hick b Croft ..

B A Williams c Fraser b Croft....... A S Gilbert not out Fall: 1-3, 2-33, 3-111, 4-156, 5-156, 6-211, 7-216, 8-232.

Did not bat: M W H inness Bowling: Headley 17.5-6-54-2; Fraser 12-2-33-1; Hollioake 10-1-40-1; Croft 20-3-85-3; Ramprakash 7-0-31-1.

Welsh county sign up Newell

By MARK PIERSON

GLAMORGAN, the 1997 county champions, have reinforced their middle order by signing the Sussex batsman Keith Newell on a two-year contract.

Newell, 26, will fill the void left by Tony Cottey, who crossed in the opposite direction last month when he brought to an end his career with the Welsh county by signing a three-year deal with Sussex.

Newell's first-class best of 135 came against the West Indies in 1995 and last night he said: "I'm delighted to be joining Glamorgan. They have a very good side and have big plans for the ground and for next season."

The Glamorgan captain. Matthew Maynard, said: "We have been looking to strengthen the squad with a couple of signings and I am delighted that Keith has agreed to join us. We feel there is a tremendous wealth of talent coming through at Glamorgan, but if there is a player we feel will add something to the squad we will always show an interest."

The all-rounder Mark Alleyne was yesterday re-appointed as Gloucestershire's captain for a third season.

Kent have signed a club record £400,000 sponsorship deal with the brewers Shepherd Neame to take them through to the end of the 2001 season.

Aamir Sohail will remain captain of Pakistan for the remaining two Tests against Zimbabwe despite the furore after his side's seven-wicket first Test defeat. The Pakistan Cricket Board voted 9-3 to keep Aamir in charge despite criticism from the public and media since Zimbabwe won in Peshawar last month, their first overseas Test victory.

The Australian umpire Darrell Hair is threatening legal action against Sri Lanka's cricket board president, Thilange Sumathipala, alleging that he accused Hair of bias during a row over Muttiah Muralitharan.

The Sri Lankan spinner's action came under scrutiny in 1995 when he was no-balled seven times by Hair for throwing. scribed Muralitharan's action as "diabolical".

Hair recently made himself unavailable for the limitedovers series between Australia, England and Sri Lanka. His decision came after Sri Lankan cricket authorities had asked the Australian Cricket Board to ban him from umpiring their

Soldini conquers conditions to take lead | Brown's tough challenge

AN OVERNIGHT burst of hard work and speed saw Italy's Giovanni Soldini in Fila take the lead from Marc Thiercelin's Somewhere as the Around Alone fleet went south into the Roaring Forties three days into the second leg from Cape Town

to ckland. in yesterday's buffeting conditions, Soldini recorded speeds as he seeks to reduce the deficit comfort and safety as she confrom the first leg from Charleston when he finished

SAILING BY STUART ALEXANDER

Mike Golding.

The rough weather is causpre-race favourites. She reported problems to the port side of the keel on PRB, which forced her to turn north for sulted the boat's designer and builder in France. She then re-

she would not lose the keel, but annoyed at the delay.

"I am expecting to be told that I must work with only the starboard hydraulic ram which controls the angle of the keel," ing some anxiety, particularly she said. "I am fed up with to Isabelle Autissier, one of the these crises. I would like to sail a normal leg for once."

Britain's Josh Hall, who is in fifth place, reported from Gartmore that he is "hanging on for the ride. These are scarv machines down here on your own. but he also recounted a radio Jean-Pierre Mouligne, who My top speed today was 30

sumed course confident that knots with the boat definitely in which the Frenchman "soundcharge. I would be lying if I did ed relived to have the night not admit to a high level of fear and trepidation. I know how if Thiercelin, a Vendée Globe easily the boat could wipe out veteran, is finding the going if the smallest thing went

workout betore i' nday s

Test, it has not narrowed down

many options, and apart from

Golding's Team Group 4 is within sight of Soldini and Thiercelin as 10 miles cover the top four boats, with Hall a further 53 miles behind. "It's great to see them surfing along at 20 knots plus," Golding said, conversation with Thiercelin in

over". As Golding pointed out, tough, then it is hard for all of

However, the former SAS officer, Mike Garside, is making light of the conditions and is romping away at the head of the Class II 50-footers in Magellan Alpha. He has pulled out a 65mile gap on the second-placed won the first leg in Cray Valley.

BRITAIN'S TOP three distance runners will be competing in the 1999 Flora London Mara-

thon on 18 April, it was announced vesterday. The British 10,000 metres record holder, Jon Brown, Paul

Evans, who was third in the 1996 marathon, and Richard Nerurkar will be among the 30.000 runners.

Brown, who just missed out on a bronze at the European Championships, will be keen to win the battle of the Britons, but

against Evans, who was fifth in the recent Great North Run. and Nerurkar, placed eighth in the European Championships.

Abel Anton of Spain and Catherina McKiernan are the defending champions, and the strong field also includes Ronaldo de Costa of Brazil, the fastest marathon runner ever. Organisers have reported a 15 per cent increase in ap-

plications to around 90,000. Ben Johnson's latest request

to be reinstated as a sprinter has been directed to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports, which is seeking about £19,000 from the federal government to cover costs of a

Johnson, 37, has not competed since receiving a lifetime suspension from the International Amateur Athletic Federation in 1993 after a instatement by Athletics Canada would allow Johnson to race

HUNTINGDON Going: Good to Soft (Soft in places) Mr J Owen 20-1 Mr T Davidson 14-1

1- ran. 6, 1%, shi-hd, 1, 1%. (Warner bay gelding by Pharly out of Springwell, trained by T Easterby at Melton for Mrs Jean P Connew), Tote: £350; £120, £470, £260, DF: S4180, CSF: £5790. 1.00: (3m maiden chase)
1.00: (3m maiden chase)
1. RIOT LEADER R Waldey 13-2
1. Combon Soa LE Husband 40-1

Orphan Spa _____E Husband 40-1
 Alston Antics _N Williamson 9-4 (R fav Also: 9-4 (m Imran. 5-2 Royal Torring, 12-1)

Supreme Leader out of Clamelry Jane, trained by T George at Stroud for Mr & Mrs D A Gamble), Tota: 28.70; T160, £210, £150. DF: £1430. CSF: £15035. NR: Belvento.

¥THE INDEPENDENT						
RACING	~ ~ 4	ICES _				
0891	26 TARIES	RESULTS				
LECESTER	971	981				
CHAM	972	982				
LINGFIELD	973	983				
ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970 Calculus Story minute, U.S. I.J. Sponton & ICLA 471						

RACING RESULTS BORA BORA _____C Liewellyn 3-1
 Ardentinny _____M A Fitzgerald 5-2
 Lucy Weithers _____J Cullety 7-4 fav
Also: 8-1 Mensahib Olesteem (5th), 12-1 Mitzi Thistie (6th), 16-1 Ambrosia (4th), 16-1

7 ran. 5, nk, dist, 11/4, 1/2 (Winner chesma mere by Balm out of Sujerro, trained by N Twiston-Davies at Cheltanhem for Mine Julia Baldenza), Tota: 1340; £210, £280 DF: 1540, CSF: £1105.

2.00: [2m HDyds novice handicap chase]
1. CATHERINE'S WAY ___ | Osborne 11-4
2. Hissr ____ B Fenton 5-1
3. Pin Mony ____ S Dureck 7-2
Also: 6-4 tay Stonesby (4th), 20-1 Snow-shill Harvest (5th).
5 ran. Shi-hd, 26, 6, dist. (Winner bay geld-

5 ran. Sht-nd, 26, d, OS. (waster billy get-ing by Mendelus out of Sharp Approach trained by Andrew Turnell at Shariff Hutton for R K Carvill, Tota: \$2.70; \$180, \$170, DF: \$2780, CSF: \$1435, NR: Hugh Daniels, Min-

2.30: (2m TiOyds handicap hurdle) MUKDAR N Willemson 11-2 Coulinard W Marsion 4-5 fav by K Baley at Upper Lambourn for A & A Curter and S Wood). Tota: £5.50, £130, £150, £180, DF: £7.70, CSF: £10.76, Tricast. £36.44 3.06: (2m 4f 110yds handicap chase)

1. HAWAIIAN SAM _____ M Griffith 12-1 2. Haumting Music _____ R Widger 9-2 3. Shanawogh _____ N Hannity 5-1 Tremait. Tremett (11-10) was windrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies all bets, teuction 450 in the pound.

FONTWELL Going: Good to Soft

GOING: GOOD ID SORT

12.40; 1, DANGERUS PRECEDENT (D Gallagher) 4-11 fav; 2. Rebonant 3-1; 3. Sylphide
66-1.9 ran. 7, dist. (C Egorton). Tota: £140; £100; £170; £5670; DF: £170; £58; £185;
1.10; 1. MILLIANTOR (A Gently) £58 far; 2. PharNesse £30; £170; £130; DF: £250; £58; £465;
1.40; 1. CEPRIAM CUEEN (P Hole) B-1; 2.
Gallant Tarily 5-1; 3. Bozo 7-2, 8 ran. 5-2 fav
Mr Bolangies (Hol); ½, 10; G GOTToria,
750; £161; £150; £210; £160; £56; £455;
1.10; £170; £170; £180; £170; £

Treast Ciston

2.16: 1. KING OF THIEVES (D Galagner) 7-2:

2. Trushey 7-1; 3. Far Dawn 90-1 7 ran. 2-1

(av Kaen Dencor (Sth). 2. 12. (C Marm). Rote:

14.20; 2.50. 12.50 DF: \$1220. CSF: 12725

2.40; 1. KNIGHT TEMPLAR (R Durncody)

Evens fav; 2. Drum Battle 25-1; 3. Freeline
Fontaine 3-1 7 ran. 4 dist. (P Nichols). Rote:

1.160; 5140, 6370 DF: \$1650. CSF: 52181. MR:

Accommance Lady. Accountancy Lady.
3.10: 1. LORID OF LOVE (B Califord) 20-1; 2. Bermuda Thangle 10-1; 3. Risky Girl 7-2 8 rat. 6-4 to Tresture Chest (pulled top). Nt. 20 (D Witteret Tota: 2210): C310, I220, C150 DF: C5650, CSF: 27788. NF: Tabermack.
3.40: 1. HEVER GOLF DIAMOND (L Currents) 9-1; 2. Gutthmort Kid 13-2; 3. Holborn

3.46: 1. Hever GOLF Branchin L. Com-miss) 9:12. Cutthront Kid 13-2; 3. Holborn HR 5-1. 11 ren. 3-1 lav Fourtain Bd. Sht.hd. 1% (J. Best, Matistone). Yoke: (12.30, C350, C270, C230, DF. Ctallo, CSF: (S438, Tincast: 530827, Tota Trifecta: C37/80 Place 6: £58.42. Place 5: £48.03.

Eventing produces a real winner FIFTY YEARS of three-day again conspicuous by their abeventing in Britain, starting sence. Mary King, out of comwith the Olympic Games of petitive action for most of the 1948 and the inaugural event at year while preparing to give

Badminton the following year, are celebrated with a wonderful selection of photographs in Riding for Gold (Compass Equestrian, £29.95). Originally conceived as a

written history with illustrations, the book changed direction to a pictorial record with text when its author, Jane Pontifax, was left with limited time because of illness. Her text is therefore succinct but always pertinent. The photographs (among which the early ones are particularly evocative) are confined to British events and, almost exclusively, to the overseas and home successes of British riders. Do not expect to find a photograph of New Zealand's Blyth Tait, the current world and Olympic champion. He gets a couple of

mentions, but no picture. It has been a vintage year for books on eventing, while those on show jumping are

birth to her son, Frederick, has also produced William and Mary (David and Charles, £16.99).

This delightful account of King's long partnership with the handsome bay gelding. King William, naturally has a wealth of superb photographs to remind us that both horse and rider are eminently pho-

The dust-jacket describes William and Mary as "the world's most successful eventing partnership", but most of us would have to regard that as a sad "what-might-havebeen" rather than a reality. The horse has never been less than magnificent across country, but his tendency to clobber show jumps has let him down at major events,

With the benefit of hindsight, King believes that William's greatest triumph when winning Badminton in

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Today: Equestrianism

1992 was also his undoing. "The crowd gave William a rousing reception during his lap of honour, and there were endless photo calls and press conferences. I loved it all, but we now know that it really upset William." The great horse "was never able to settle down at a major three-day event again."

Two books by Kiwi event riders were published earlier in the year: So Far, So Good by Mark Todd (Weidenfeld and Nicholson, £18.99) and Kiwi Magic by Andrew Nicholson (David and Charles, £17.99).

While Todd produced a diverting autobiography, which was reviewed in these pages in May, Nicholson's contribution (written in collaboration with

magazine) is largely instruc-

excellent use of photographic sequences by Kit Houghton to explain what horse and rider are doing in each frame. Cross-country schooling sessions with some of the young horses in Nicholson's yard are particularly revealing. You can see the youngsters gain in confidence under the rider's sure touch.

Elizabeth Furth raises photography to an art-form in Visions of Dressage (J A Allen, £29.95), which follows her books on show jumping and eventing to complete a trilogy of equestrian "visions". Furth is also responsible for the text, which includes interviews with riders from the great centres of classical riding (notably the Spanish Riding School of Vienna) as well as leading com-

petitors. Furth includes the two great exponents of dressage today:

Kate Green, editor of Eventing Anky van Grunsven of The Netherlands. Both seem happy to chat away about their sport The co-authors have made and the special relationship that they enjoy with their top horses.

> Werth says that riding Gigolo "feels a bit like coming home because we know each other so well. We share a very emotional bond."

> Van Grunsven has similar feelings about Bonfire: "Our understanding for one another is very deeply rooted ...When we are in the arena I get the feeling that we are

Mary Wanless has built up a following through teaching "the biomechanical principles that underpin good riding at every level" and she continues to propound her theories in Fhr the Good of the Rider (Kenilworth Press, £19.95). The same stable has produced Starting Endurance Riding (£4.95), which is the 41st booklet in the series of Threshold Picture Guides.

Genevieve Murphy

Angus dominates in beefy show lured by

RUGBY UNION BY CHRIS HEWETT at Twickenham

Cambridge University Oxford University

COUNTLESS THOUSANDS of pin-striped alumni still appear to treasure the Varsity Match as a quintessentially English occasion, which must be the biggest joke to hit Oxbridge rugby circles since a certain Simon Halliday relieved a limping Stuart Barnes of one of his crutches, poked out the nearest window, returned the said implement to its rightful owner and sprinted into the distance. leaving his helpless colleague to face the music.

It is the best part of a decade since the second Tuesday in December had much to do with this particular sceptred isle; indeed, we might as well rename it Commonwealth Day and have done with it. Yesterday's teams featured five Australians apiece as well as five Englishmen, and the cosmopolitan flavour was further enhanced by three New Zealanders, three Irishmen, a couple of Americans and a smattering of French and Japanese. Not much use to Clive Woodward. perhaps, but a definite recruitment opportunity for Kofi

Under the circumstances, it was no great surprise that a big bloke from Brisbane - one of two big blokes from the same Brisbane family, indeed should have dominated proceedings to such an extent that it would have been a travesty of justice had he been denied a winner's tankard. Angus Innes, a 27-year-old post-graduate student, made an unholy mess of a vaunted Oxford pack in both tight and loose and can consider himself grossly short-changed by the Light Blues' eventual margin of victory.

Ironically enough, Innes, who played in the Cambridge second row alongside his slightly smaller and marginally less effective brother Hamish. would have been even more productive had he completed an obvious scoring opportunity at the end of the first quarter. Much to his embarrassment, he was pulled down short of the line by Nathan Ashley, a mere centre, albeit an Australian one. The five points would very treatment - drive it through the up outside him, but lock forwards have never been great students of the overlap theory

of rugby. enough in every other phase of the game to earn Cambridge a decisive advantage in the one operational area that had seri-



Master of the Twickenham aerial combat: Angus Innes soars to take another line-out ball for Cambridge as Oxford's Andrew Roberts puts in a fruitless leap Peter Joy

ously concerned their coach, Tony Rodgers. "We knew Oxford would give it the Plan A pleasure of seeing his son, Stefan, claim Cambridge's second try five minutes into the second half. "But our own pack is an Still, he did more than under-rated unit and we ended up playing all the rugby."

Much of that rugby came from Mark Denney, the former Bristol and Wasps centre. By

threatening threequarter on view, he emulated his try-scoring exploits in last year's Vardefinitely have been registered forwards and use their scrum- sity jamboree by ripping had the Wallaby Under-21 cap half as their pivotal figure," around the short side of a solid Cambridge scrum inside the Oxford 22 and outpacing Shaun Barry and Richard Woodfine en route to the left corner. It brought the Light Blues level at 5-5 and they would not be headed again.

Rodgers' bustling try, largely created by a sharp thrust and lay-off from the accomplished

penalties from Paul Moran, the ball as far away from the Innes brothers as possible but earned them a late score from Nick Humphries, Moran proved more than able in running down the clock with some cultured long-distance punt-

It might conceivably been different had Oxford's slippery

far the most physical and Denney, was followed by two right wing, Nick Booth, capitalised on his own early oppor-Cambridge's Auckland-born tunist try by goaling the eight outside-half. At 16-5 down, Ox- points presented him on the ford had little option to move proverbial plate during a fran- a record six defeats on the tic opening 40 minutes. All although their adventure and although Steve Hill the Oxford coach, reassured everyone afterwards that Booth had struck each of his kicks "quite beautifully", his failure to strike bridge pack that was considthem in the right direction undermined his side's chances of now be in equally serious dana first Varsity victory in five out- ger of a ritual debagging on the

"Of course I can see Oxford winning this fixture in the near future." insisted Hill, who is now contemplating the ignominy of bounce. "We were close out down by 30 points." Fair comment. But having seen his game plan blown clean out of south-west London by a Camered seriously suspect, he must

made unnecessary contact

with the touch judge. The com-

mittee did not, however, con-

sider this contact to be

threatening, but they empha-

sised strongly that no contact

should ever be made with a

make his comeback from injury

for Cardiff in Saturday's friend-

ly against Richmonu.

wing, who is half-way through

a three-month loan deal at the

Arms Park, suffered a shoulder

Anthony Sullivan hopes to

match official."

COCFORD UNIVERSITY: R Wo

Roberts - Ment College) - M Callender - St America - Celliers - Met e., T Misch - Mars-fell, D Melaber - St Coss Capt. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: R Morrow - Green Park - A Bidwell helpts - Moll. M Robinson Hughes hall, M Denney - St Earner - St Lipplett - Coras Christic - P Moras Hughes - All - G Peacotte - Mujer - St - M Foulds - Size - Street, Capt. S Rodgers - Lomeston, C Hart - Hughes - M Innes - Hughes - Mall, A Innes - Hughes - College - Mall, A Innes - Hughes - College - Mall, M Haslett - St Details - Details - St Details - Details - Details - Details - D Referee: E Varnsch (Snstal).

gentina last month. He is back in training and is rated as a

Bath were given their second tough draw of the season with a trip to Saracens in the second round of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup. The European champions also face a testing Tetley's Bitter Cup fourthround trip to Newcastle on 9

50-50 chance for the weekend.

JABUATY.
CREITENHAM & GLOUCESTER CUP
Second-round draws Bristor v Moseley or
Northampton. Lescester or Rugby v Bedford
or Coventry, Waterloo v Everer, London Scor-psh v Orreil or Sale, Saracters v Bath, New-castle v London Welsh or Richmond, best loser
one v best loser two, Gloucester v Leeds (fles to be nineed between 17 and 2 v February).

to Hull

RUGBY LEAGUE By DAVE HADFTELD

HULL HAVE continued their rebuilding for next season by signing the Illawarra hooker, Andrew Purcell, on a one-year

contract. Purcell has played under the Hull coach, Peter Walsh, at his Australian club and said that was a major factor behind his decision to move to The Boulevard.

"You can have the best contract in the world but if you're not happy and don't get on with the coach it can become a nightmare," said Purcell, who last season appeared 19 times in the first grade side for the club, which has now been merged with St George

"Knowing Peter was crucial when it came to deciding and ! also know some of the Sharks players from my time at Illawarta." he added

Purcell's arrival ends any possibility of the New Zealander, Brad Hepi, returning Hull. He is on the market after walking out of his rugby union stint with London Scottish but is not wanted back at The Boulevard and could now be destined for newly-promoted

Wakefield Trinity.
Purcell is Hull's fourth closeseason signing and the club also intends to announce two more new recruits - one of them an established international - tomorrow morning.

Halifax have secured the services of their Wales and Great Britain prop. Kelvin Skerrett, for another season.

"Kelvin was one of our impact players last season and his influence on the youngsters c Halifax is invaluable," said David Hobbs, the football manager at the club, which surprised the game by rising to third place during a successful Super League season.

"Securing his services for next season was a major goal for our coach. John Pendlebury, and should reassure our supporters that our pack next season will be as strong and fearsome as ever."

The retention of Skerrett is an important step in the rig direction for Halifax, who released his front-row partner and club captain, Karl Harrison. at the end of last season. Their efforts to sign another Test prop. Sheffield Eagles' Paul Broadbent, foundered on the player's demand for a club

Speculation is now rife that Broadbent, the Sheffield captain capped eight times by Great Britain, could be out of the two British signings to be unveiled at Hull tomorrow.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The percentage of Australian students in a survey who rate cricket as the sport most likely to lose popularity over the next 25 years,

Basketball and rugby were the next least popular, with Australian Rules, football, triathlon and beach volleyball the most popular.

Hopa dies in scuba diving training accident BY ANDREW BALDOCK nancially-troubled Oxford Unit-The French side were or-A policeman's helmet was against Franck Tournaire, the injury in Wales A's defeat by Ardered to pay costs of £2,600 and knocked off as Toulouse players committee considered he had

tional. Aaron Hopa, died yesterday in a scuba diving training accident on the Coromandel Peninsula, He was pronounced dead after he had received cardio-pulmonary resuscitation for about 50 minutes.

Hopa. 27, is thought to have drowned while completing a diving course with seven other members of his Waikato team. The loose forward played four matches, but no Tests, for the All Blacks during their tour of Great Britain late last year.

Hopa had been named in the All Blacks' summer training

Ingle split

confirmed

by Hamed

BOXING

NASEEM HAMED confirmed

yesterday that he has split up

with his long-time trainer Bren-

dan Ingle. Hamed will leave the

Wincobank gymnasium in

Sheffield where he has been

training since the age of seven,

and will also stop working with

Ingle's sons John and Dominic.

nished by Ingle's controver-

sial comments in a recent book

Hamed said: "You cannot

dismiss the time we have spent

together - we have shared

some very special times that I

Hamed retained Ingle as a "supervisor" for his last World

Boxing Organisation feather-

weight title defence, against

Wayne McCullough in October.

However, he appeared to dis-

regard advice from Ingle.

will remember for ever."

The Paddy and the Prince.

The partnership was tar-

squad to prepare for the World Cup. "There was no doubt in our minds that he was going to play a large part in our planning for next year," said the All Blacks' coach, John Hart.

He described Hopa as "a quiet achiever, a very quiet man, very focussed. He was a very humble sort of person, an excellent role model and a person whose life has been taken in the prime of his time." London Irish have confirmed

that preliminary discussions have taken place with the fi-

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE

GROUP A

GROUP A
Croatia Zagreb v Olympiakos (7.45)
Porto v Ajax (7.45)
GROUP B
Athletic Bilbuo v Galatasaray (7.45)
Juventus v Rosenborg Trondhelm (7.45)
GROUP C
Real Martid v Sharaya Moscow 17.451

Real Madrid v Sparrak Moscow (7.45) ... Sturm Graz v Internazionale (7.45)....... GROUP D

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Chelsea v Aston Villa (7.45)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE Johnstone v Hearts (7.45)

y capton.

DR RAKTERS LEAGUE CUP First round second leg: Bromsgrove Rovers (0) v Hale-sowen Row (1): Solnut Borough (2) v Stakenall (2).

enali (2).

UNIBOND LEAGUE Challenge Cap Second-round replay: Bishop Auckland v Forsley Cetic. President's Cup first-round replay: Witton Abbian v Runcorn. President's Cup second round: Gairsborough v Stalybridge (7.45).

JENISON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Febstowe Port & Town v Bury Town. JENISON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP Second

round first leg: Downton'v Cowes Sports Second leg: Eastleigh (3) v Fareham (3).

ed about a ground share next season. Irish, whose plans to build a 15,000 all-seater stadium at their Sunbury home have been rejected by councillors, could become tenants of Oxford's new Minchery Farm site. But the Allied Dunbar Premiership club say it is only one of several options currently

being explored.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE Floodik Trophy Second round: St Helens Town v Rossendale Utd.

Floodilt Trophy Second round: St Helens Town v Rossendale Utd. UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Pagham v Burgess Hill Town. PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckle Trissle v Peterhead (8.0);

Toulouse and their international prop, Franck Tournaire, effectively walked free from yesterday's European Rugby Cup disciplinary hearing in

TODAY'S FIXTURES

were reprimanded for Tournaire's threatening behaviour towards touch judge Rob Dickson as well as the parts played by other Toulouse players and officials following their surprise 19-11 Pool C defeat at Ebbw Vale on 7 November.

Violence marred the encounter, culminating with the Scottish referee Ed Murray sending off the Toulouse forward Cyrille Vancheri, and there were ugly scenes outside the match commissioner's room.

remonstrated with match officials, while police also attended an incident in the Ebbw Vale clubhouse later that evening.

"Toulouse have got away with it," said the Ebbw Vale chief executive, Ray Harris. "From our point of view, it was a wasted journey. I didn't want to see Toulouse kicked out of the competition but I am disappointed and dumbfounded by the outcome."

A statement from ERC said: "In the case of the complaint

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING

PREMIERSHIP Blackburn v Newcastle 3 Everton v Southampton

Leicester v Nottm Forest ... 5 Middlesbrough v West Ham 6 Sheffield Wed v Charlton..... **Playing Sunday:** Aston Villa v Arsenal, don v Liverpool.

Playing Monday: Leeds v Coventry. NATIONWIDE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

LEAGUE: Buckle Thistle v Peterhead (8.0):
Kelth v Cachnacuddni: Rothes v Hunth;
NATIONWIDE: INISH GOLD CUP Semi-Baals: Unfleid v Portadown (8.0) (at the Owa): Glenavon v Genovan (7.15) (at the Owa): Glenavon v Genovan (7.15) (at the Owa): Stoke v Leeds (7.0) (at Newcastle Town).
First: Divisions Man City v Clotham (7.0) (at Altrintam): Middlesbrough v Bolton (7.0) (at Billingham Symthodia): Tranmere v Grimsby (7.15): West Bromwich v Port Vale (7.0) (at Halesowen Town). Second Di-vision: Hudder-Steid v Scarborough (7.0); Uncoln v Rotherham (2.0): Wresham v Sheffield Und (2.0): Vriv v Stockport (7.0). Third Division: Chesterfield v Hulf (2.0): Darlington v Rothale (2.0): Watsaff v Wigan (2.0). League Cup Group Size Scun-thorpe v Lecester (7.0). AMON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Brentford v Brighton (2.0): Charlton v Wycombe (7.0) (of Welling Utal): Colchester v Northampton (2.0): Glimgham v Reading (2.0): Joswich v Cambridge (7.0); Southampton v Fulham (7.30) (of Stoplewood): Wimbledon v Barner (of Suton Utal): Bournemouth v Luton (1.0). 12 OPR v Crewe

RUGBY LEAGUE TEAMSPORT INTERNATIONAL: Wales Students v France Students (7.0) (ot Glam-

BASKETBALL WIEISER LEAGUE: Greater Londor ards v Newcastle Eagles (8.0) for Lon-

ICE HOCKEY CHRISTMAS CUP: Busingstoke Bison Gulldford Flames (7.30): Kingston Hawi v Edinburgh Capitals (7.30). CHALLENGE MATCH: Pete

Brighton v Rotherham Cambridge Utd v Pivm

Huddersfield v West Bromwich1 11 Oxford Urd v Birmingham 13 Sunderland v Port Vala 14 Swindon v Bradford City

17 Wolves y Norwich ... Playing Sunday: Portsmouth v Grimsby. THIRD DIVISION

21 Uncoin City v Colchester .. 23 Manchester City v Bristol Rovers. 25 Northampton v Chesterfield 26 Notts County v Preston ... 27 Oldham v Walsall 28 Stoke v Gillingham

29 Wigen v Wretham.

THIRD DIVISION

SCOTTISH Premier League

Aberdeen v Hearts Dundee Utd v Celtic Dunfermline v Motherwe Rangers v Kilmarnock ... St Johnstone v Dundee .

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

45 Ayr v Raith 46 Clydebank v Stranraer. Ag sc Mirren v Airone
Met on coupon: Second Division: East
Fife v Clyde, Forfar v Livingston, Queen
of South v Partick, Stirling v Arboouth
Thand Division: Albion v Dumbarron, East
Stirling v Ross County. Montrose v Cov
denbeath, Queen's Park v Berwick. Tenments Scottish Cup Tirst-round replay.
Allica v Sternbusempir.

Alioa v Sterhousemuir.
TEM HONNES: Leicester v Nottm Forest,
Huddersfield v West Bramwich, Ipswich
v Barnsley, OPR v Crewe. Sunderland v Port
Vale, Fulham v Burnley, Stoke v Gillingham,
Cambridge Utd v Plymouth, Ayr v Raith,
Clydebank v Stranraer. FIVE AMAYS: Transere v Bolton, North-ampton v Chesterfield. Notis County v Pre-ston, Oldham v Walsall. Scarbrough v Hallfax.

FOUR DRAWS: Blackburn v Newcastle

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nakes

Houllier in bid to thwart Arsenal

GERARD HOULLIER, the Liverpool manager is close to signing the French centre-half Cyril Depri-Domoraud in a 22m deal to prevent Arsène Wenger taking him to Arsenal

The highly-rated Marseilles defender is in talks with Liverpool and could seal an agreement before the end of the week. Houllier is even willing to leave the French Under-21 international at Marseille for the rest of the season before bring-

eghim to Anfield next summer. iger, looking to rebuild his defence next season, has also been in contact with Marseilles about the player.

an offer to take Cameroon centre-half Rigobert Song on trial. He is out of favour at Salernitana, but he needs a work permit, which is a major stumbling block. Liverpool already have two work-permit players and hope to sign the Croatian Silvio Maric shortly to take them up to the maximum of three. If the Croatia Zagreb winger Maric agrees to a £3m deal this week, Liverpool's interest in Song

Javid O'Leary will build his is team around his first signing, David Batty, and does not mind upsetting whoever has to make way for the England midfielder.

The Leeds manager confirmed that Batty, who signed vesterday for £4.4m from Newcastle, will make his debut for his hometown club against Coventry on Monday, shunting into the sidings one member of the Leeds team who overwhelmed West Ham 4-0 last have been hard, as a whole with the club he left for Black- all my thoughts are for Leeds

games with people. David will

- a police sergeant, yesterday

with illegal soccer bookmaking in connection to an alleged

match-fixing scam by local

conspired in operating an ille-

gal bookmaking centre covering both local and overseas

soccer matches, the Indepen-

dent Commission Against Cor-

ruption (ICAC) said in a

The eight are alleged to have

BY ALAN NEXON

O'Leary said. "If that upsets someone who has been in the team then it is tough. I don't care what the players think, I am trying to build something that is going to last for the next few years. I will spend money when I think it is right, the responsibility doesn't bother me."

O'Leary faces a dilemma in deciding who will make way for Batty: Midfielder David Hopkin is in his best form since arriving at Leeds, while Lee Bowver has scored three goals in the last Houllier is also considering three games. The teenage striker Alan Smith and and Norwegian utility man Alfie Haaland are favourites to be sacrificed.

Batty's signing brought to an end a protracted saga which had left the player, who celebrated his 30th birthday last Wednesday, contemplating his future in the game after Newcastle turned down Leeds' initial £4m bid.

After being told he would never play for the Magpies again after he handed in a transfer request to manager Ruud Gullit, Batty was relieved to finally set the seal on his return to Leeds.

"It has been a frustrating time," he said. "When I read the rumours that Leeds were initially interested I just hoped they were true. Certain things may have changed but it feels like I have never been away. There is a buzz about the place and these are exciting times.

"Although the last two weeks eckend Batty has signed a Ruud handled it very well. I enand-a-half-year contract joyed playing with Newcastle but ably the most exciting period at win in 16 games. play on Monday if he is fit," the club for about five years."

The police sergeant, Tse

perintendents for tip-offs about Chi-yuen, 21.

Ping-wang, 43, faced two

charges of bribing police su-

police raids on bookmaking

The illegal bookmaking case

came to light when the anti-cor-

ruption watchdog was investi-

gating an alleged match-fixing

case, an ICAC spokeswoman

said. Last month, five Hong

Kong soccer players were

HONG KONG'S graftbusters to engage in illegal bookmaking, the ICAC said.

They were due to appear in charged with match-fixing, in-

court last night on a total of five cluding the rigging of a World

ckages, including conspiracy Cup qualifier.

centres.



David Batty (left) and Leeds manager David O'Leary are all smiles after the midfielder's £4.4m move from Newcastle yesterday Andrew Varley

Miller departure was 'mutual'

THE ABERDEEN chairman, Dundee United late last month manager facing the wrath of time over the past two days dis- of talking and soul-searching. Stewart Milne, last night insisted he had not sacked Alex Miller after the manager's year-long reign at Pittodrie was brought to an abrupt end earlier in the day.

Milne stressed that the Scotland assistant manager's de-

Milne confirmed at a hasti-"I am not going to play a young manager and this prob- an end after a run of just one

The 3-0 home defeat by ready left the former Hibernian

Lee Wai-man and Lok Kar-

win, both 25, Chan Chi-keung,

The trial of four of the play-

28, Wai Kwan-lung, 22 and Lau

- will begin on 12 January. The

with jailed national striker,

brought pressure to bear on the 49-year-old Miller and Saturday's humiliating 4-0 defeat at Kilmarnock appears to have been the last straw.

That result sent Aberdeen to the bottom of the Premier League and left Milne contemparture last November.

glorious battle to arrest the the new SPL at the beginning

11 wins from 43 games had al-

disgruntled supporters unhappy at the team's dour style under his command.

Chairman Milne was forced

to deny last week that a group of wealthy local businessmenwho form the affluent AFC Club at Pittodrie - were poised club's plight.

been made the scapegoat, but Milne was anxious to stress his exit was by mutual consent. "I would like to make it clear I haven't sacked the manager but the lack of substantial funds But an overall record of just right that he moves on at this recent weeks, was happy to contions to our squad," said Milne.

cussing matters and we have both the chairman and myself come to the conclusion, jointly, that it is in everybody's interests that Alex parts company

"From a personal point of view, I am obviously very disappointed at the way things work he has put into this club and I wish him all the very best

in his future career." Miller, who has resisted the temptation to complain about

"After a substantial amount a contender for the vacant job.

came to the conclusion that it would be in everybody's interest if I left the club," he said. "I have enjoyed my time here at Pittodrie and I wish Aberdeen every success in the future."

Milne confirmed that the assistant manager, Paul Hegarty. and the director of football. Keith Burkinshaw, will look after team affairs while the Pittodrie board ponders its choice of successor.

They are both vastly experienced and they will continue to look to bring players in who cur with his former chairman. Hegarty may be considered as

Pompey ready for player auction

BY GRAEME PATERSON

THE CHAIRMAN of Portsmouth is planning to sell players at knock-down prices to save the team from financial ruin. Martin Gregory is said to have drawn up a "bargain price list" of his squad to be circulated to every club in the country.

At the weekend, Gregory spent 48 hours discussing a takeover deal with the businessmen Vince Wolanin and Brian Howe, but the Americanbased pair flew home yesterday with the future of the club still

Pompey's manager, Alan Ball, is said to be standing firm by the players, who yesterday staged a rebellion against Gregory when they learned he was

planning to sell them off. Following a meeting with the club's director, Peter Hink inson, at Fratton Park yesterday, Ball said: "The chairman has got to tell the people exactly what is going on.

"I've insisted that he makes a statement. It's all very well hearing rumours about this and that, but he's got to tell people why I have been told to sell players. He has got to tell people the extent of the problems.

"One thing is for sure - I'm having no part in selling off this team to pay off debts. He says we have to sell players and I disagree with that and have told him that. I don't know where he will get the money from unless he gets a mass injection of cash from somewhere.

"I've got a four-year contract and I'm planning to see it out. I will work hard in my job to prepare the players for their game against Grimsby on Sunday. I am not going anywhere.'

Portsmouth's captain, Adrian Whitbread, met senior players who yesterday decided to release a statement to The

News, the city's newspaper. Whitbread said: "We all got together and decided that we didn't want to go and we wanted to remain here and be loval to the supporters who have been loyal to us all season. The manager does not want to sell anybody and we don't want

The new Blackburn Rovers manager, Brian Kidd, is ready ter United, to add coach Tony Coton for his back-room team.

Kidd plans to recruit new faces for his staff - and the former goalkeeper Coton is being lined up to join him, along with Brian McClair.

Coton has been at United this season as their goalkeening coach, but he works without a contract and is keen to step

up the managerial ladder. Dave Bassett is trying to sign the Swedish centre-half the Jesper Mattsson for Nottingham Forest in a bargain deal. The Halmstad defender is due to arrive at Forest for talks this week about a move to the Premiership strugglers. He has a fixed fee of £300,000 in his con-

Mattsson was due to join Huddersfield Town last month, but the deal collapsed when a well-funed takeover fell through at the First Division club.

parture "with immediate plating a change of manager for to launch a takeover bid unless have turned out. But I would like to take this opportunity to effect" was a mutual decision the second time in just over 12 action was taken to tackle the thank Alex for all the hard arrived at after two days of exmonths after Roy Aitken's de-Miller appears to be have

tensive discussions and soully-convened news conference that Miller's increasingly in-

Miller appeared to have steadied the ship as the Dons retained their top-flight status last year and briefly topped

time." he said.

"We have spoken for some

Eight charged over betting scam Di Lella angers Fulham The ICAC brought a total of and win HK\$200,000 (£16,050) HARTLEPOOL HAVE launched Di Lella was substituted 75 an incident occurred in one of

game 2-0. Chan Tsz-kong was sentenced in July to 12 months' jail after being convicted of rigging the match against Thailand.

ers - Lee, Lok, Chan and Wai The Asian Football Confederation have decided to hold an trial of Lau will start next emergency meeting next week Lee, Lok, Chan and Wai to discuss a decision by Fifa, were accused of conspiring football's world governing body, to award just four places to the continent at the World Cup in Chan Tsz-kong, to ensure Hong Kong lost by two goals to Thailand in a World Cup qualjoint hosts Japan and South ifying match on 9 March 1997, Korea.

17 charges against the five men from bets placed with a book- an investigation into an incident in the players' lounge at Fulham maker. Hong Kong lost the after their 4-2 FA Cup second round defeat on Saturday.

The club have been contacted by Fulham amid claims of a clash between the Argentinian midfielder Gustavo Di Lella and Fulham's Simon Morgan.

Mick Tait, the Hartlepool manager, said: "We have received correspondence from Fulham. I did not witness the incident and want to find out ex-2002 - two of which will go to actly what happened. If any action needs to be taken, then we will take it."

minutes into the game at Craven Cottage with a cut eve. and later claimed that he had been hurt when he was stamped on by Morgan, who

third goal. "I was on the floor and he just stamped on me," said Di Lella. "I was very dazed and had to go off even though I didn't want to. It is all right now, but I was not happy."

went on to score his side's

Fulham released a statement which read: "Following Fulham's FA Cup second round tie with Hartlepool on Saturday

The former Walker Cup captain and

chairman of selectors George Mac-gregor will captain Scotland for the next two seasons. The 54-year-old played in five Walker Cups between 1971 and 1987 and earned 60 Scot-tish caps. His term as chairman of

selectors ended with Britain and Ire-

land winning the world team title

ICE HOCKEY

The London Knights coach Jim Fu-yarchuk has been fined £250 and banned for two matches after mak-ing an "unauthorised visit" to the of-ficials' room during a match against Cardiff Devils on 1 December. The suspension covers the games against

in Chile last month.

the club's lounges. "Fulham have sent a full account of the incident to Hartle-

pool United - who we understand have already taken disciplinary action against one of their players – and to the Football Association." John Ward, the former Bristol City manager, is set to be-

come Colin Lee's assistant at Wolves. Ward, who lost his job tract. with City last month, will move to Molineux on a non-contract basis. He was due to meet Lee last night at a reserve match with Sheffield Wednesday.

SPORTING DIGEST

THERE IS much uncertainty concerning the make-up of the fifth round of the EHA men's BY BILL COLWILL and women's cup draws following the postponement of a Two, will relish the chance of number of fourth round games. another scalp with the visit of But if replays go according to First Division Bradford. form, the highlight of the fifth F.rst, however, Clifton have to opposition. overcome South League lead-

Giant-killers Woking, who accounted for Premier Divi- Notton (6) and Mahmood Bhatsion Sutton Coldfield last Sun- ti (4) doing the bulk of the damday and are on maximum age - are the visitors. Along points at the top of Division with Epsom, Old Georgians

PARIS HAS launched an official

bid to stage the 2008 Olympic

HOCKEY

In the men's competition, round ties will be the visit of last season's Cup and League women's Premier League lead- winners Cannock, providing Ipswich to last year's Cup they overcome Harrogate, have iners, Clifton Scottish Life. another home tie against junior

Old Georgians, who struck 16 goals in their League game against Camberley - with Gary

Woking keen on another scalp have a 100 per cent record at the top of the Surrey Hampshire South League.

Old Cranleighans, who defeated Premier League Bournville in the shock of the fourth round, have another home tie against EHL Division One leaders Lewes.

ers Lewes.

EHA FIFTH ROUND CUP DRAWS:
Men: Cannock or Harrogate v Old Georgans; Canterbury v Sheffield or East Gnnstead; Hourslow or Norton v Brocklands; Old Cranleighans v Lewes; Old Loughtonians v Doncaster; Reading v Bowdon or Loughborough Students; Southgate v Northampton Saints; Teddington v Wimbledon. (less to be played on 17 January). Women: Aldridge v Olton Terraquest: Billingham or Eastbourne v Fyffes Lekester or Sheffield; Canterbury v Doncaster; Cheimsford v Loughborough Students; Duhach or Ciliton Scottish Life v Ipswich; Ealing v Blackburn Northern or Stough: Hightown or Sherwood v Tuise Hill; Woking v Bradford, (ties to be played on 14 February)

Tampa Bay's Trent Dilfer threw for 181 yards and two touchdowns in a dramatic 24-22 win over Green Bay Packers. Tampa's triumph means they have now secured a play-off berth. NIFL: Tampa Bay 24 Green Bay 22.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Fears about the health of the leg-endary player Joe DiMaggio, who is recovering from lung cancer surgery, have eased following another re-marakble recovery by the 84-year-old. Doctors said on Sunday that DiMaggio was in a grape condition DiMaggio was in a grave condition after contracting a lung infection, but it was announced yesterday that the infection had subsided rapidly and the American Hall of Famer was again in better health.

The Arizona Diamondbacks have signed the free agent centrefielder Steve Finley on a four-year contract worth around \$20m. Finley's arrival takes the ambitious Phoenix-based outfit's close-season spending on new players to over \$115m.

Glamorgan, the 1997 county champions, have reinforced their middle

sponsorship deal with brewers Shepherd Neame. The sum represents a record for the county and will run for the next three years.

Seven cyclists from the Casino team are being questioned by French au-thorities investigating the doping scandal that overshadowed the four scandal that overshadowed the lour de France during the summer, judi-cial sources said yesterday. It was expected that the seven, who were not named, would be released yes-terday afternoon.

FOOTBALL Vasile Boudi, the ex-manager of Ro-

manlan side FC Olimpia, was yesterday arrested in connection with a missing \$100,000 which he is accused of embezzling from his former club and other unnamed sources. Boudi was dismissed by Olimpia in October after he was unable to satisfactorily explain an expenses claim of around \$50,000 to his board. The developments are the latest in a long line of financial scandals to have beseiged Romanian football since the collapse of communism in 1989.

Liverpool's FA Cup third-round tie at Port Vale will be screened live on ITV at 2pm on Sunday 3 January. Sky will show the all-Premiership tie between Manchester United and Middlesbrough at 4pm on Sunday, and Preston's home tie with Arsenal at 8pm on Monday evening.

The Argentininan forward Arlel Or-tega was suspended by his club Sampdorla yesterday following a drink-driving charge by police. Or-rega's compatriot and team-mate Gaston Cordoba and Brazilian Cate were also suspended by the

the last minute for the second time in sucession.

PREMIER LEAGUE SUSPENSIONS

PREMIER LEAGUE SUSPENSIONS (for sendings-off): Three matches 5 Benfield (Southampoon): F Sinclair (Leiester): F Caballaro (Arsenat). One match J Roberts (Liverpool): Own match D Slatter (Chelsea): P Telfer (Coventry): D Huckerby (Coventry): A Haaland (Leeds). I Lanns (Leeds): 5 Eliiott (Newcaste): T Staniforth (Shelf Wed). C Palmer (Southampton): F Lebosui (Chelsea): R Kell (Middlesbrough). (For eight cantions): One match P Gascoigne (Middlesbrough). FOOTBALL LEAGUE SUSPENSIONS (for sendings-off): Four matches A Gursuspension covers the games against Sheffield Steelers tomorrow and Nottingham Panthers next Tuesday. The Nottingham coach, Mike Blaisdell, was also fined £250 and hanned from his side's match against Bracknell Bees for a separate inci-

Gent.
NHL: NY Rangers 6 Toronto 2; Dallas 3
Calgary 2
SEMONDA SUPERLEAGUE (Monday):
Bracknell Bees 6 Newcastle Riverkings 5:
Cardiff Devils 8 London Knights 0; Manchester Storm 3 Nottlingham Panthers 2
[or).

RALLYING

ham). (For five causions): One match
B Sinclair (Gillingham): C Morgan (Barnsley): P Sturgess (Brighton): S Reld
(Cnester): J Cross (Chester): D Carr
(Gillingham): B Ashly (Gillingham): P Cooper (Hardepool): P Thome (Stoke): D
Roberts (Darlington): N Young
(Bournemouth): C Morrison (Crystal
Palace): S Flack (Eacter): J Fox (Ipswich):
T Heming (Jincoln): T Vaughan (Man City):
M Brown (Man City): D Hooper (Peterborough): S Collins (Plymouth): I Baraclough (Queens Park Rangers): N
Romardson (Rotherham): A Garla (Scunthorpe): K Ball (Sunderland): G Allen (Tranmere): D Whittle (Queens Park Rangers):
S Barkow (Wigan): C Bradshaw (Wigan).
(For eight causions): One match G Johnson (Huddersfield): G Kauanagh (Stoke):
S Howard (Hartiepool): G McGowan (Luton): K Muscat (Wolverhampton). as Pentti Airikkala's tropical jaunt proved fruitless. The British-based Finn, winner of the 1989 RAC Raily, was plagued with mechanical problems throughout the two-day event and retired on the second leg with a gearbox failure in his loaned Mazda 323. Oliver Townsend and co-driver Kirk Lee eventually emerged as victors after five different cars had led the event.

SAILING isabelle Autissier was yesterday

Isabelle Autissier was yesterday leading the fleet into the Roaring Forties on the second leg of the Around Alone Race from Cape Town to Auckland. She held a 13-mile over the tight pack consisting of Mike Golding, Marc Thiercelin, and Giovanni Soldini, who remained within three miles of one another, with Josh Hall held in fifth place. The Class II leader, Mike Garside. The Class II leader, Mike Garside, continues to set a fast pace 33 miles ahead of Viktor Yazykov, and his 40foot Wind of Change.

SNOOKER

Stephen Lee moved up to a career high fourth in the provisional rankings, by defeating Antony Hamilton of Nottingham at the German Masters in Bingen. Lee made breaks of 77 and 75 to lead 2-0 before Hamilton took the third frame with a 123 clearance. But Lee's scoring touch remained intact in the second half of the one-sided contest, as he set up a quarter-final against Ken Do-

herty. GERIKAN MASTERS (Blagen) First round: 5 Lee (Eng) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 5-1

S K 11 N G

NORDIC WORLD CUP (Milan) CrossCountry Spriat Men's Final: 1 M
Fredriksson (Swe); 2 P Schilckenrieder
(Ger); 3 T Fredriksson (Swe); 4 O B
Helmeset (Nor); 5 T A Hettsnd (Nor); 6
A Palolahti (Fin); 7 G Di Centa (II); 8 M
Gandler (Aut). Women's Final: 1 A
Moen (Nor); 2 A Mall (Sloven); 3 B Martinsen (Nor); 4 K Moroder (It); 5 S VIIieneure (Fr); 6 K Neumannova (Cz Rep).
7 M Henkel (Ger); 8 B Albrecht (Swit).
Overall standings (after two rounds):
Men: 1 M Fredriksson 150pts; 2 P Elof-

WORLD CUP SKI JUMPING (Predaz-

WORLD CUP SKI JUMPING (Predazzo, Iz): 1 M Schmitt (Ger) 253.7ps (jumps of 128.5 and 125.0m; 2 K Funski (Japan) 250.0 (121.5 and 126.0); 3 N Kasai (Japan) 238.8 (122.0 and 124.0); 4 K Yoshioka (Japan) 226.0 (117.0 and 123.0); 5 L Ottesen (Norway) 233.6 (124.0 and 113.0); 6 M Harada (Japan) 223.5 (124.0 and 113.0); 6 M Harada (Japan) 223.5 (124.0 and 13.0); 7 M Aagheum (Nor) 222.8 (116.5 and 119.5); 8 J Anonen (Fin) 222.6 (116.0 and 121.0); 9 S Hannawald (Ger) 198.4 (104.0 and 19.0); 10 A Goldberger (Aut) 214.8 (119.0 and 112.0); Sstandings after five rounds: 1 Schmitt 460; 2 Ahonen 372. 3 Funski 330; 4 Kasai 190; 5 Hannawald 163; 6 W Lotzi (Aut) 161; 7 Aagherm 163; 6 W Lotz! (Aut) 161; 7 Aaghern 144; 8 D Thoma (Ger) 114; 9 Harada 105; 10 N Dessum (Fr) 100.

The Italian Andrea Gaudenzi will be unable to play for three months be-cause of a torn tendon in his right shoulder. Gaudenzi hurt himsell while playing against Magnus Norman in the Davis Cup finals in Mi-

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Patring win 4-2 on aggregate

ASIAN GAMES (Banghok) Second round:

Group I: China 3 Tajiristan 1, Oman 4 tran

2. Group 1: Thalland 1 Nazakhstan 1, Qatar

I Lebanon 0. MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carting Pre-

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carting Pra-ministrip: Sheffield Wednesday 3 Nottingham Forest 2 Football Conference: Hednesford 1 Yelford 1, FA Unbro Trophy Second-mund replayt Lincoln Urd 2 Kidderminster Harn-ers 1, Postponed: Rothwell v Hendon, Dr Martens League Premier Division: Wey-mouth 5 Goucester 3. Wortester 0 Barh 3 Southern Division: Chelmsford 3 Ashford 0: Dartford 1 Sittingbourne 1, North Western Trains League Floodlik Trophy second round: Clitheroe 7 Oldram Town 2 Pontins League Premier Division: Blackburn 1 Sunderland 1: Letester 3 Derby 2 Third Di-vision: Postponett Carlise v Hartepool Asson Insurance Combination First Division: Chelsea 1 OPR 0, Milhvall 1 Swindon 3

Games. The French President, Jacques Chirac, yesterday contacted Juan-Antonio Samaconfirm the city's application.

lu -

₹.

Kuala Lumpur and Beijing have already formally bid for event, while Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Osaka in Japan. Seville in Spain and Toronto are also interested. The IOC will select the host city in 2001.

OLYMPICS.

Paris makes bid for 2008 Olympics

Kevin Gosper, an IOC executive board member and a possible successor to Samaranch, ranch, the International Olym- has suggested that only capital pic Committee president, to cities should apply for future summer Olympics.

"I can see in the future that only a capital city need apply." Gosper said. "It has to be a city which has the capacity to host a global event, and which can continue its normal daily business life while hosting an Olympics."

Suggesting a city was unlikely to win the right to stage sport's biggest prize at the first attempt, he cited the case of Athens which lost out for the

templ."

Greek capital came straight back and won the 2004 Games. Beijing lost out to Sydney for the event in the year 2000. "I think it is wise Beijing rather than another Chinese city bid." Gosper said. "They will have learnt a lot from their first at-

1996 Games to Atlanta. The

order by signing the batsman Kei-th Newell from Sussex on a two-year contract. Kent have announced a £400.000

A friendly international between Nigeria and Egypt originally sched-uled to be played today has been called off by Nigerian officials after their Egyptian counterparts at-tempted to reschedule the game at

FOOTBALL LEAGUE SUSPENSIONS (for sendings-off): Four matches A Gur-ncy (Forquay). Three matches M Badman (Bristol City): S Davis (Fulham): M Peters (Mansfield). P Rogers (Wigan). Two matches D Crookes (Barnsley): W Bul-limore (Scarborough). One match S Hodgson (Man City). M Thomas (Luron): S McCarthy (Plymouth): T Danning (Stock-port): G Carr (Scarbrough): O Selle (Old-

A treacherous water splash on a stage named Wakefield wreaked havoc in the Esso/JMC Rally of Jamaica



CAMBRIDGE THE MASTERS OF OXFORD P26 • RAMPRAKASH NOT AMUSED IN VICTORIA P25

Parma end Rangers' hopes

in Parma

Parma Rangers Parma win 4-2 on aggregate

RANGERS' DREAMS of Uefa Cup glory died in the space of 20 minutes yesterday at the Tardini Stadium. The Scottish Premier League leaders conceded three goals in that spell after being reduced to 10 men in this third round, second-leg

The defender Sergio Porrini was sent off at the end of the first half by the Norwegian referee Gerge Hauge for his second bookable offence, both yellow cards the result of challenges on Juan Veron.

The Rangers manager, Dick Advocaat, was furious at the decision. "There was no reason to give that second yellow card to Porrini and it changed the face of the game," Advocaat said. "It made it very difficult to match Parma in the second half."

The Scots had been in the driving seat before Porrini's dismissal, with Jörg Albertz putting them 2-1 ahead on aggregate in the 29th minute. But they were left with a daunting task against a team of Parma's quality. The Italians have not lost in Europe for the past five years and are currently flying high in Serie A.

Abel Balbo pulled them level two minutes after the break but worse was to follow for Rangers. The substitute Stefano Fiore put Parma ahead in the 63rd minute and Enrico Chiesa sealed a place in the quarter-finals by scoring from the spot four minutes

Advocaat sprang a surprise before the game by omitting Andrei Kanchelskis. The Russ ian winger was expected to play a key role but instead Albertz retained his place. Gordon Durie was recalled to the front line with Jonatan Jo- steer it wide of the post. hansson suffering from a hamstring injury while Stéphane Guivarc'h was ineligible.

But Rangers were forced on with Balbo squandering a good



The Rangers defender Sergio Porrini fouls Parma's Juan Peron to earn himself a red card during yesterday's 3-1 Uefa Cup defeat at the Tardini Stadium

lead in the sixth minute. Fabio Cannavaro played a long ball in from the right and Chiesa flicked it on only for Balbo to

Rangers gave Chiesa too much room and the Finnish goalkeeper Antti Niemi twice had to scramble the ball away

29th minute when Roberto Sensini carelessly lost possession to Albertz. The German midfielder took the ball on and delivered a stunning strike into the corner to put Rangers 1-0 up on the day and 2-1 ahead on aggregate.

Yet Rangers shocked their just before the break, with and there was no reason for Veron started to do some seri- the spot. Chiesa swept home chance of giving Parma the opponents by taking the lead Porrini picking up his first yel-

against the run of play in the low card in the 44th minute away the penalty. But don't put blocked by Albertz but only with a lunge on Veron. Then came his dismissal a minute later, leaving Rangers with an uphill task to qualify.

"We showed in the first half we can compete at their level and both sides played a lot of good football," Advocaat said. But the turning point came "Amoruso had a good game then stepped up the pace and no hesitation in pointing to him to use his hands and give ous damage. His free-kick was the penalty kick.

the blame on Amoruso and Porrini. What happened to them is part of the game."

Parma pulled level two minutes after the break when Balbo knocked the ball in after Chiesa had flicked on a cross from Veron. The home side

landed at the feet of Fiore 25 yards out. He did not hesitate

to shoot the ball beyond Niemi. Rangers continued to battle away but their fate was sealed in the 67th minute when Amoruso handled a long ball from Veron and referee Hauge had

■ The Borussia Dortmund

keeper. Stefan Klos, has been given the all clear to hold talks

fined' on tour

BY JAKE LYNCH in Sydney

IT EMERGED yesterday that two Australian Test cricketers were secretly fined by the Australian Cricket Board for accepting money from a bookmaker on the tour to Pakistan in 1994.

The Australian Cricket Board's chief executive, Maicolm Speed, confirmed that the wo were fined A\$2,500 (£900) each for providing information about pitches and the weather to allow the bookmaker to formulate odds on the series. The: news slipped out yesterday in an interview on a Melbourne radio station with the former Test player David Hookes. He said that he "understood" the players involved were Mark Waugh and Shane Warne.

The ACB, which would not itself name the pair, confirmed that it would be holding a news conference in Adelaide, where the Australian squad have gathered for Friday's third Ashes Test. The two players are expected to attend in person.

"The two players were fined after the tour of Pakistan," Speed confirmed. "They a both still prominent members of the Australian team."

Hookes said: "In 1994, (a player) accepted money from an Indian bookmaker to give a report on the ground and weather conditions for some of the upcoming matches in that series."

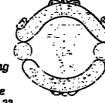
Hookes added he believed there was no suggestion of the player being bribed to influence the outcome of matches and that the player had gone to the ACB to seek advice.

"And I'm also led to belie that (another player) was also involved," Hookes said.

"It should be stressed that (the first player), I believe, went to the ACB in 1994 after receiving some money and said he wasn't sure whether he was doing the right thing or the wrong thing," Hookes continued.

INSIDE: WILL MANCHESTER UNITED OVERCOME MUNICH?

Glenn Moore assesses Alex Ferguson's team's chances of advancing past the German champions in tonight's decisive Champions' League group game... plus Arsenal in Greece and a guide to all the groups for a big night in Europe Page 2



THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3789 Wednesday 9 December



ACROSS When he treats roots,

don't hit out! (12) Interpret former US poet (7)

10 An alarming bloodcount? (7) 11 Duke, say, holding maxi- 29 Rope pulled - to conmum number of Western dollars? (4) 12 Sodium in California is

cut (5)
13 Home fixture for City (4)
16 A dimmer-switch in the theatre (7)

17 Ursula has beer drunk? (3-4) 18 Uncommunicative

types, these natives (7) 21 Sculptor's hole-in-one 23 Approaching doctor, it is

grave (4)

24 Stops most of settlement (5) 25 Disapproved of in Cen-tral Constabulary (4)

28 Well versed in New Latin in respect of marriage (7) form, say? (7) Insured truck attached

to train? (7,5) DOWN One who resists problem at work (7) Tense, being instructed

by ear (4) Card-game? Here is one, on the shelf (3,4) Tests of gold shares (7) Cheeky drop in rent (4) South American custombuilt banger (7)

Arrogant, demanding Platform Ten is made

ready (4-9) Pop idols? (6-7) 14 Left port with full cargo

15 He will shortly ring - to say this? (5) 19 Broken promise of parttime earner (4-3) 20 Low seat that is for a police informer (7) 21 Amerind Watch Co. gone

bust (7) 22 Mendelssohn's fourth vermouth, we hear (7) String band (4) Catch on small branch (4)

 \odot

Olympic movement in £15m clean-up vow

DRUGS IN SPORT

tors, rather than whether it en-

hanced their performance. That

was widely seen as a signal of

defeat; the World Conference is

a statement of renewed intent.

don't really care that much

"It is convenient to say we

"I am going to officially ask

that creatine is as soon as pos-

sible on the list of banned dop-

ing products, definitely for the

World Cup, but also for the Five

Nations championship," Lapas-

set said. His call for action came

following the publication of an ex-

clusive Independent survey that

showed 57 per cent of leading

British sportsmen have used

creatine, and amid growing fears over the safety of long-term

heavy use of the product.

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

PROPOSALS TO establish the world's largest doping control operation, at a cost of \$25m (£15.25m), will be put to the International Olympic Committee this week.

"We want to create an independent doping agency with proper funding that will be able to instigate and co-ordinate testing worldwide," said the British IOC member Craig Reedie, who will present detailed plans for the scheme to an IOC executive committee meeting in Lausanne.

Reedie, the chairman of the British Olympic Association, believes it is crucial to the future of the Olympic Movement that it should play a more active part fighting doping abuse. "Clearly the present system

is imperfect," he said. "Attending to that will be part of the crusade. It is imperative that we get our message to all sports that Olympic sport is clean. "The Olympic Movement

has to put its house in order. It should then be allowed to deal with its own affairs. If not, it is probably dead in the water." Reedie is a key member of one of four working parties who

THE PRESIDENT of the French

rugby union is to demand the

banning of creatine - the mus-

cle-building supplement mar-

keted as a 'legal steroid' - for

next year's Five Nations'

Championship and World Cup.

advantage of the visit of the In-

ternational Rugby Board pres-

ident, Vernon Pugh, and the

European Rugby Council pres-

ident, Tom Kiernan, to Paris on

Saturday to air his views.

Bernard Lapasset will take

about substances that aren't dangerous," Reedie said. "But we have to care about them if they are performance-enhancing." Reedie, and working party chairman Dick Pound, an IOC

French rugby chief

calls for creatine ban

thus sharing the cost right will report their findings this across the Movement. "We believe that the proweek as the IOC prepares to host the first World Conference gramme is to the benefit of on Doping in Sport on 2-4 February next year.

many," Reedie said. "Sponsors, sports goods manufacturers, The initiative, which will deal the pharmaceutical industry with all aspects of doping in-cluding protection of athletes all have an interest in sport being clean." The new body, and legal, financial and political Reedie says, would be likely to difficulties, comes in the wake use existing testing agencies of of the controversy aroused ear-lier this year by the IOC presirecognised high standard in countries such as the United dent, Juan Antonio Samaranch. Kingdom, Australia, Canada, According to a Spanish Norway and Sweden. "In other newspaper, Samaranch said his countries," he explained, "we main concern about doping was need to encourage international federations who are not running whether it harmed competi-

ated by Olympic TV rights -

out-of-competition testing." Reedie is hopeful that the problem of banned competitors reducing their penalties through appeals to civil courts can be overcome if the IOC is seen to have harmonised its policies as far as possible. "We need a unified and enforceable punishment system, so that if someone is given a two-year ban, they can't reduce it on appeal to a civil court," he said.

The IOC executive committee will also receive a resolution from last month's meeting of European Olympic Committees calling for the right to establish eligibility criteria - "including unannounced out of competition controls." As BOA chairman, Reedie is determined to defend the bylaw which rules any British competitor found guilty of serious doping abuse out of any future Olympics. Among the other measures

which would improve the situation in preventing doping in sport, Reedie highlights the need for standardising punishments, and putting more emphasis on research Authorities failing sport,

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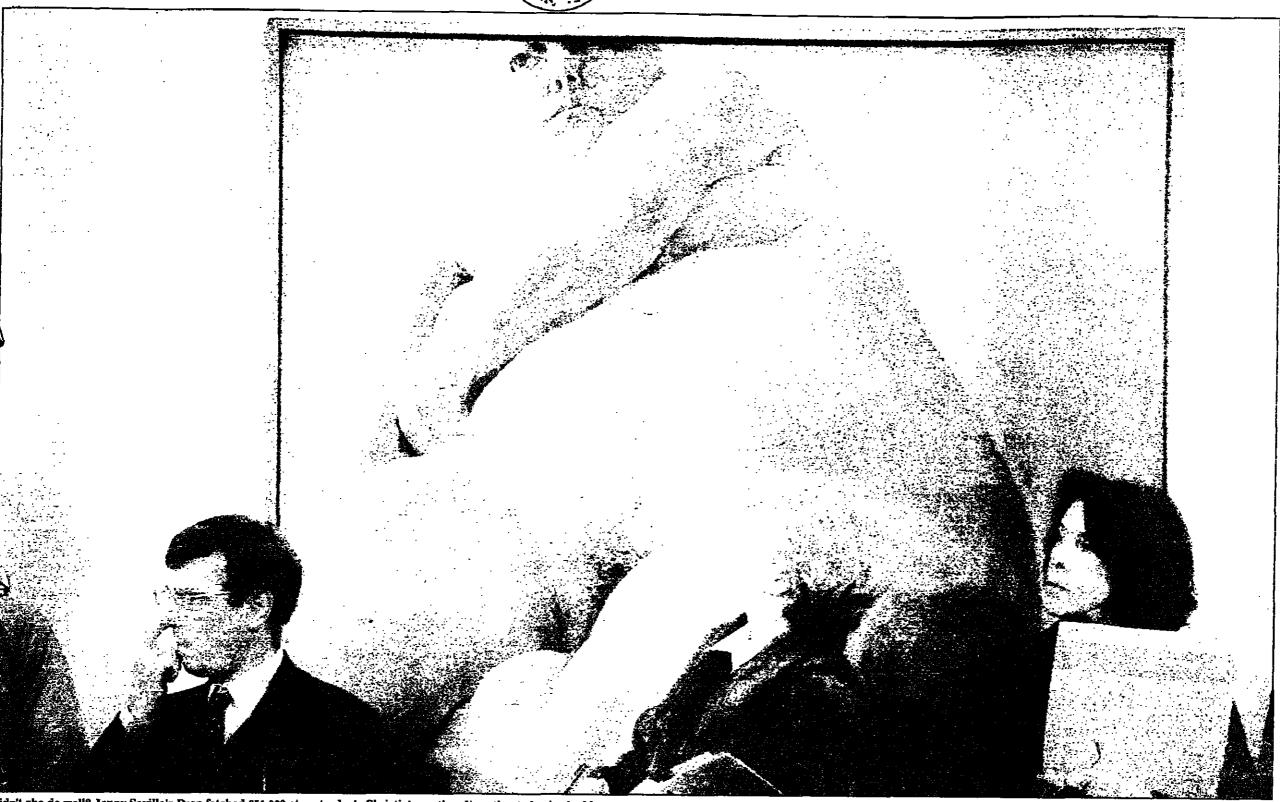
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The Eding W

COMMENT • **TELEVISION**



Didn't she do well? Jenny Saville's Prop fetched £51,000 at yesterday's Christie's auction. Its estimated price had been £10-15,000

Peter Macdiarmid

BritArt's big day out

They came to pay tribute (and £1.6m) to the good taste (and better judgement) of Charles Saatchi, the one-man art market...

Some came hoping to see it buried. Some came to buy; others just to gawp. Yesterday, in a warehouse next to Smithfield Market. London, British contemporary art had its biggest test. It had to be a warehouse as no Christie's shawroom could accommodate Jake & Dinos Capman's towering fibreglass sculpture of Professor Stephen Hawking in his wheelchair tottering on the edge of a cliff.

ome came to praise BritArt.

7-5

And with Damien Hirst's prime exhibit consisting of dozens of jars of internal organs of cattle, where better to sell it than next to the country's most famous meat market?

But those who climbed the corrugated iron staircases into the third floor of the incongruously makeshift saleroom yesterday were not bothered about the surroundings. Dealers, collectors, gallery directors, art students and anyone desirous of showing off at a dinner party needed the answer to the key question the afternoon would unlock: could the "Sensation" crowd of Hirst, Rachel Whiteread, Jake & Dinos Chapman et al cut the mustard any more?

Certainly, they could get exhibitions, Venice nnale pavilions and critical acclaim. The art arld establishment had taken the media darlings of the Brit Pack to its embrace and every cutting-edge space in the country has been theirs

throughout the Nineties. But did anyone want to buy them? Were Hirst's internal organs of cattle and Whiteread's sculpted space around a kitchen sink to be seen as eternal art, provoking philosophical questions and increasing in value each year, or as mere ephemera, the emblems of a faddish, over-hyped decade of student art now to be exposed as the emperor's new clothes?

but for the entire art world and the auction houses, was Charles Saatchi, the collector and advertising agency co-founder, who had almost single handedly discovered the Hirst generation. It was his £70m collection which was used for "Sensation" last year at the Royal Academy. Now he was offloading 5 per cent of it, 130 works by 97 artists, with the proceeds going towards bursaries for art students and funds for art colleges.

chosen Brit Pack colour. Even the collectors who stepped out of Rolls-Royces and Mercedes in the car park, wearing dark glasses in the grey drizzle to show this was the cutting edge, disdained colour as a tribute to the generation of artists who took art out of the gallery and into the warehouses and student shows.

Leaning against one of the tall, white pillars under the industrial tiling were some of the Young British Artists themselves. Sue Webster and Tim Noble were not up for auction on this occasion, but they were curious. "We want to know what this work is worth," they said. Therein their financial security lay.

"We don't want to be part of a fashion," said Miss Webster, "as fashion always goes out of fashion." She had, at least, mastered the Saatchi soundbite.

In front of them sat the experienced art buyer Frank Cohen, the owner of an extensive collection that includes Damien Hirst. He said it remained difficult to determine the worth of work

perhaps this is the new trainspotting.

As Mueck's Big Boby came up. one art student said in a loud stage whisper: "Save your money, it's only wax." He was hushed up. The artists are allowed to make jokes with their installations. The buyers are not.

The auctioneer mounted the wooden podium. flanked in startling contrast by the saleroom's bright red cloths, Richard Billingham's photographs of outsize women and Mueck's two-foothigh, oversized, polyester resin sculpture of a boy. The whole room went quiet. Except a genuine baby, squealing in its art-buying mother's arms, perhaps terrified by Mueck's version of itself staring wide-eyed and naked.

It might have been more terrified had its mother turned its face towards the Christie's screen. On it flashed up the first major lot - to non-art lovers, what seemed to be a page from the daily Sport featuring seven nudes. How little non-art lovers know. This was by one of the leaders of the Brit Pack, Sarah Lucas, and complete with when the artists were still young and fresh. He title - Seven Up - and official description -

The warehouse was a sea of black, clearly the more like a trainspotter than an art buyer. But Saatchi collection. Had his championing of the 28-year-old artist paid dividends? It had. The top estimate was £15,000. It sold for £51,000. A few cognoscenti observed that she had a show soon at the Gogosian Gallery in New York. That, the

sages mused, would have helped the price. But no time to chat. The two big tests of the Brit Pack, of Charles Saatchi's influence and of the market, had arrived. First came Untitled (Square Sink) by Rachel Whiteread, a Turner Prize winner and Britain's representative at the last Venice Biennale. A picture of the "negative cast" of the sink came up on the screen. "It's the Rachel Whiteread." one woman whispered to her neighbour, somehow a more awe inspired whisper than "It's the kitchen sink". The auctioneer turned straight to the bank of telephones. "The bidding is between Henry and Laura," he said. signalling what must have been two Christie's employees rather than collectors, given away by their lack of black clothing.

Whiteread's negative sink, estimated to sell for £50,000, fetched £133,500. It was another telephone bid that took Damien Hirst's spot painting for £110,000. The faith in the Brit Pack had held. At a recent sale a Hirst spot painting failed to reach its estimate. That was a blip. The £122,500 was more than four times the estimate.

Though much higher than their estimates, the prices were still relatively economical in terms of saleroom masterpieces. BritArt is affordable, and there was considerable speculation that some of the telephone bidders might have been connected with the Tate, which has a new international gallery of modern art at Bankside to furnish.

What a feast of the avant-garde. But the spectre at the feast was Charles Saatchi. In one afternoon he had offloaded 5 per cent of his collection, proved the marketability of young British artists and raised more than £1m for art students and art colleges.

And he was nowhere to be seen. The consensus in the room was that he was out "shopping", scouring the colleges for the next generation of Hirsts and Whitereads so that he could make their names, shock some more, earn some more, then offload them all in a good cause, naturally,

10 December – 14 January Conducted by Bernard Haitink & David S Directed by Francesca Zambello? Designed by Alison Chitty Lighting by Wolfgang Gobbel Three great dances, one large wedding, tightrope walkers, acrobats, clowns, a ringmaster and a bear... I wanted to do something that would be a Christmas present opera, that would be something that you would want to being family and friends to FRANCESCA, ZAMSELLO Tickets: £7.50 - £60 Ticket Office: 0171-863-8000 Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, Islington EC: - - Angel

BY DAVID LISTER

said he had his eyes on Ron Mueck's Big Baby. "photocopy on paper, executed in 1991" - this was But when the bidding started and rapidly rose. his interest seemed to wane.

The only splat of colour at the auction was proange coat and yellow tie. Not surprisingly, he turned out to be the owner of a Hirst spot painting. The managing director of a communications company, he said he was not there to buy but to study the going rates. "I enjoy trying to follow the tracks of Charles Saatchi.

One man who did eventually buy was the investment manager Roddy Campbell, who bought The man taking the risk, not just for himself a Walter Niedermayr snow-splattered canvas for £3,000. His juices flowing, the first-time bidder said: "I cannot describe what making a bid is like. I feel quite sweaty and full of adrenalin now. It's like having a severe coffee shake."

Amid the largely young faces Mr Campbell was a typical member of the Brit Pack fan club - wearing a long, dark trenchcoat and darkrimmed glasses. Every so often he sought advice from his wife via mobile phone. He looked

radical contemporary art. Don't believe me; read the catalogue: "She's a code-breaker and a ball-buster, a saboteur and a spy. Elegantly in vided by Angus Rankine, sporting a bright or- your face, Lucas is a smutty, salt-of-the-earth lout whose unequivocal work is raw and loud

Who could resist that? Very few. it rapidly became evident. The bids resounded in the hall. "Last chance, Sir, you've come all the way to Clerkenwell," the auctioneer said to a bidder he may have recognised from the more sedate saleroom in St James's. The telephones started going ballistic. In a few moments the £7,000 top estimate was broken and more than doubled as The Sport's inside page, with a touch of code-breaking and ball-busting, fetched £14.500.

Next up was Jenny Saville's Prop. an oil painting of a hugely fat woman, to prove Saville's philosophy that male fantasies must be challenged and big can be beautiful.

The bigger challenge was whether Saville her-self could sell. She had never sold outside the Additional reporting by Anne-Celine Jaeger

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The phonics success

Sir: Far from being embarrassed. as your article "New reading plan 'staggeringly good' " (report, 7 December) suggests, the Government is pleased that the new literacy hour is becoming a part of school days across England.

The emphasis on phonics, spelling and grammar in the National Literacy Strategy draws on research in over 500 schools where new evidence shows it to be effective. It represents an enormous cultural shift after some 30 years in which far too many teachers and schools dismissed the value of phonics.

We welcome research into effective use of phonics, although the research you quote was based on just eight schools. There is a range of phonics schemes which are entirely consistent with the National Literacy Strategy, and schools are free to choose among them. Where we find good ways of teaching phonics, of course we encourage them.

Coming on top of the £2,000 we have provided for books for every school in the country, £54m for the National Literacy Strategy means that all schools will be able to successfully implement the strategy, which has been shown to work.

ESTELLE MORRIS Schools Standards Minister Department for Education and Employment London SW1

Sir: "Synthetic phonics" are not new or mysterious - they are not even Scottish. Thirty years ago, Kathleen Hickey was training teachers for the Dyslexia Institute, and showing them some simple techniques - arrange the alphabet letters in an arc. teach the first few sounds (i, t, p, n, s) then ask the child to make words from these letters.

Sound-letter links of increasing complexity were accumulated and rehearsed. Meanwhile, the skills learned by synthesis were being use in writing, and eased into reading real books. Kathleen Hickey trained dozens

of teachers: they have gone on to train hundreds of others. "Synthetic phonics" are part of every Dyslexia Institute lesson. and commonplace in thousands of literacy hours. MARGARET COMBLEY Sheffield

Sir: I was delighted to read this morning, and have been since I first learned to do so. Discovering that synthetic phonics is accelerating the process for today's children was therefore excellent news.

mathematical ability will not be disadvantaged by a process which teaches six phonemes a day for eight days and achieves a total of only 42 sounds. IAIN MacDONALD London W3

House-buying fiasco

Sir: You point out that housebuying is not the same as buying baked beans ("Neither a gazumper nor a gazunderer be", 7 December, but state that the Government's proposed measures are "justified intervention" in the housing market. They are, in fact, foolish and a recipe for litigation. Sellers and buyers are expected

to suspend the laws of supply and demand; a seller's estate agent is expected to conceal from his client the fact that he has received a higher office for the property; negotiations for a house sale will never get anywhere beyond vacuous waffle in case the buyer commits himself unwittingly to a deal which, for example, he has not financed or the seller commits himself to a sale when he has nowhere else to go. For how long do you suggest that the parties are bound by their "agreement" before one is entitled to call time and sue for breach of contract?

You state that no change in the law is required, but as any law student will tell you, a promise by a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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seller that he will not increase the price of the property is unenforceable unless the buyer makes some payment in exchange for that promise.

As for the extraordinary proposal that surveyor should be liable to anyone to whom the seller bandies around their survey, this would involve rewriting the law on negligent advice with widespread implications for all professional advisers.

What the Government appears to propose is a preliminary agreement, to be entered into before the usual contract, which will be subject to so many conditions and get-out clauses that not accepting the Schengen Like many New Labour initiatives I doubt very much that we will hear much more of these proposals. MARTIN FRASER Reading,

Asylum overhaul

Sir: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown's article "We shall be judged by them" (3 December) reminds us of the debate on asylum policy that we need to have in this country.

We are concerned about the proposed changes to how asylumseekers are treated, as outlined in the White Paper on Immigration and Asylum. They do not adequately deal with the hundreds or people seeking asylum in Britain who are dependent on hand-outs from the voluntary sector and religious organisations because state support is inadequate.

This is not Victorian England. In the 1990s, no one should have to help asylum-seekers in such a paternalistic fashion.

As well as reconsidering the White Paper proposals, the whole philosophical underpinning of asylum policy needs a radical rethink. As part of this, the Government would do well to clarify what steps it is taking to counter the negative stereotyping of asylum-seekers that has been displayed by certain sections of

the Press. The current spate of newspaper stories have strong resonances with those that surrounded the arrival of Jewish refugees fleeing from Russian and Nazi persecution throughout this century.

Britain will never just, multi racial society until these issues are tackled. Dr EDIE FRIEDMAN Director Jewish Council for Racial

Equality

London Wi

Sir: The Home Secretary has created a rod for his own back by possible for asylum seekers coming overland from Eastern Europe to pass the "international frontier" on the British coast, and be able to claim asylum ("Romanians' bid for freedom ends

in jail", 8 December). If, as was intended by the Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act 1986, this coastal frontier was simply an internal one, asylum-

Sir: I was delighted to read,

MP Norman Baker, that the

Chateau Latour 1955 and that

bought since Labour came to

Whilst it is comforting to

think of the latter being drunk

and enjoyed in 10 to 15 years'

Please forward my name

Sir: I was shocked to read the

advice of your cookery editor

to cut a pomegranate in half

("Food: Freshen up", 5

oldest wine in the Foreign

the most expensive bottle

power is a Chateau Latour

Petrus 1995 (report, 5

time, the former needs

and address accordingly.

CHRIS MOORHOUSE

December).

drinking up.

Sheffield

December).

Offices' wine cellar is a

thanks to the efforts of LibDem

seekers would have to return to the last international frontier that they had passed, which would be the eastern external frontier of the European Union.

So come on Mr Straw, under the Treaty of Amsterdam, Article 4, you can take part in all the provisions of Schengen. We are supposed to be at the heart of Europe, and yet we have three passport checks on incoming Eurostars.

Your administration is anxious to bring the benefits of the Union to the ordinary person, and nothing is more beneficial than the free movement of persons. Eurostar might start to make a profit at last, and the truckers will not have to dump their stowaways on the steps of your office. PETER M HAWKINS Peterborough,

Gulf veterans' plight Sir. You report (2 December) that

Cambridgeshire

Ministry of Defence police, trying to recover documents relating to

IN BRIEF

Long ago I was taught the

it on to my children and grand

Cut just through the skin to

mark out four segments. With the tip of the knife cut round

the raised end and lift out the

tufted button of the fruit. It is

then possible to separate the

pomegranate into its quarters

without breaking a single ruby

seed, and easy to lift them out

without any of the bitter pith.

KATHLEEN GILLOTT

Sir: If you were to ask 100

people what should fill the

empty plinth in Trafalgar

Square ("Populism on the

plinth", 8 December), you

Banbury, Oxfordshire

proper way, and have passed

the use of depleted uranium ammunition in the Gulf war, have raided the homes of two veterans. As a patron of the Royal British

Legion Branch of the Gulf Veterans' Association I would deplore any action by veterans which might carry them outside the law in their efforts to draw attention to the plight of their many sick comrades. The two men are not members of the branch and I hope they have taken no action which would detract from the vital service its officers provide to Gulf veterans and their families.

Breaking the law cannot be condoned. Nevertheless, the raids have highlighted the culture of denial that has pervaded the Ministry of Defence since the first reports of sickness in members of Her Majesty's armed forces

returning from the Gulf in 1991. There may be as many as 5,000 British servicemen and women whose quality of life has been seriously affected since the Gulf war. Their suicide rate is running at unacceptable levels. In the absence of definitive causation,

would probably get 95 diff-

So why not leave it empty.

save for a plaque fixed to the base explaining that it is a

memorial to all those people

Sir: If the general secretary of

the National Secular Society

really imagines that "the only

a place of worship" (letter, 7

a better law book or attempt

a non-religious funeral, or an

council, or a law court, or one

of the Houses of Parliament.

JEAN RAISON

London N19

election meeting, or a local

December), he should consult

the experiment of interrupting

interruptions that could result

in prison are those in or around

who deserved a statue but

erent answers.

never got one?

London E3

GEOFF PEARSON

House of Lords London SW1

we should not be surprised if they

answers to the many questions

raised by the polysymptomatic

nature of their illnesses. Sadly,

attempted to find their own

some choose to publicise

information which may be

misleading and which. I am

panic in some of the more

susceptible veterans.

aware, creates an element of

It is now nearly eight years

the Government to relax its

defensive posture, listen to and

provided them with the medical

On 11 June 1998 the Royal

diagnosis, treatment and financial

British Legion wrote to the Prime

Minister asking for a public inquiry

aftermath of the Gulf war has been

questions associated with Gulf war

handled. They have not had the

courtesy of a response. Until we

illnesses we are not going to be

able to prevent a repetition in the

know the answers to all the

future. There should be an

immediate public inquiry.

The Countess of MAR

believe the sick veterans and

support they rightly seek?

into the way in which the

Scotland in the EU

Sir: Peter Gresham (letter, 4 December) assumes that in the event of the breakup of the United Kingdom, Scotland would be thrown out of the EU but England would remain a member.

It is the United Kingdom that is a member of the EU. The United Kingdom is a union of equals and Scotland is not merely a separate province but a distinct country. If the break of the "United" Kingdom results in the expulsion

of one of the constituent countries, that should apply equally to the remainder.

It is perceived arrogance such as Mr Gresham's that fuels the drive towards separatism in ANDREW THORNBURY

Rationing the NHS

Sir: Dr Nicholas Leach's letter on NHS rationing (2 December) and your further articles on the dangers of smoking (3December) surely suggest one area in which NHS expenditure could be reduced.

No one is required to smoke tobacco. It is a voluntary exercise. particularly among young people starting the habit. After years of publicity no one can claim ignorance of the medical dangers. Why, then, should the taxpayer pay for the medical treatment of those who, wilfully, deliberately, carelessly, indulge themselves in a practice they know will harm them?

I should like to see and hear discussed the suggestion that, with effect from some arbitrary cut-off date in the future (say the year 2000) people with smoking-related illnesses should not normally receive free treatment under the NHS. Such people should be made individually to contribute towards the cost of their treatment. Let NHS money be spent on people who are sick or injured through causes beyond their control.

Perhaps people who know that if they become ill through smoking they will have to pay for treatment will summon up some selfdiscipline and not smoke again or not take up the habit. DENYS WHATMORE Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir: Early next year, the Government is commencing a 24hour telephone service, called NHS Direct, to deal with patients' health queries. This does not seem a sensible use of taxpayers money. At present, patients can ring their general practitioners at any time of day or night and duplicating this service does not provide any obvious benefits. What problem is NHS Direct trying to solve?

Nurses are having to be trained and will have to be paid to give advice, and the protocols which they are using have been tried and tested in America. They number over 200 and, not surprisingly, are extremely "safe". The result may well be that ambulances will be called more often, rather than less often, and that accident and emergency departments will become vet busier.

The National Health Service provides 24-hour cover. Cooperatives are working well. NHS Direct seems to be an expensive solution to a non-existent problem. Dr DANNY I R WALLACE General Practitioner since the Gulf war. Is it not time for ... Ilfracombe, Decon ...

LibDems target tax^c

Sir. Steve Richards ("When will New Labour face up to the truth about taxes?", 7 December) gives a timely warning. It is only the existence of an independent Liberal Democrat party which is keeping this issue on the agenda. This is one of many reasons why, as Paddy Ashdown has often said, "If we did not exist, it would be necessary to invent us." Earl RUSSELL House of Lords London SW1

Van in a million

Sir. Can you please tell me where I can get a white van like that driven by the 28-year-old Mancunian in Alex Hayes' article "Highway robbery on the M6" (Review. 7 December)?

It is stated to have been carrying 150 crates with 2,500 pints of beer in each crate. This makes 375,000 pints or some 210 tons dead weight of beer alone.

Counting packaging, the total weight must have been some 250 tons (aluminium cans) or 300 tons (glass bottles).

Some 375,000 pints have a volume of 7,500 cubic feet (say, the equivalent of about six or eight average domestic garages or half an Olympic swimming pool) and that's just the beer itself - packaging would at least double that. Wow, what a van! And if this is a

small-time smuggler, what's a bigtime one? N A WALTER Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex

Looking for anonymity? Just be tipped for stardom

SUNDAY AND Monday down in this part of the world (the western end moments of self-criticism or even of Wiltshire) were fine and sunny days, blue and bonny, with nary a cloud in the sky and even some warmth in the sun. I only mention it because that is not what the forecast said it was going to be. The weather forecast as practised by the witch doctors on Radio 4's Today programme promised cloudy weather, grey and dreary, bit of rain, odd shower, windy too. They got it pretty wrong. They forecast nasty weather. It was extremely nice weather. It doesn't come a lot wronger than that.

They didn't apologise, either, partly because weather forecasters never apologise, partly because weather programmes are so constructed that they always look forward and never back. They

dispassionate explanations of how they got it wrong. They always sume that things went according to forecast, which is blatantly untrue. Even now, they still refuse to admit that they didn't really foresee the hurricane of 1987...

The odd thing is that we never take weather forecasters to task for this inability to forecast weather. On Today, Gary Richardson, the sports reporter, is often a butt of studio laughter for the inaccuracy of his racing tips, but I have never heard a weather forecaster given anything short of respect and dignity. Of course, this may be because so much of Today is devoted to speculation anyway - "The Government is expected to announce today... It looks as if the Queen's speech will contain... It may be only a matter of hours before bombs start falling on..." and so on. And this is because so much of

all journalism is devoted to speculation and guesswork. It isn't presented as speculation, of course. It's presented as hard 99 per cent certain fact. "Bosnia - The bombers will go in." "Ireland - Yes, it's peace." "Iraq - Clinton to punish Saddam with air strike." "Monica - Clinton to fall within days." We have all seen these headlines. But they weren't fact. They were guesswork, and wrong guesswork at

they were printed on. So why do newspapers go on printing them? is it because, like racing tipsters,

they know their forecasts will come

that. And we all ignored them. We

knew they weren't worth the paper



KINGTON

'We have kept a tab on the rising stars you tipped, and very few seem to have risen at all'

true sooner or later? Or is it because they know they can never be brought to account, because

nobody can ever remember what they forecast anyway? Can they bask in the certain knowledge that nobody goes through back numbers of papers, checking their certain forecasts against reality, comparing the grey cloudy forecasts with the sunny blue reality?

Well, somebody does, I do.

At least. I have recently been clearing out a huge amount of old papers, and I keep coming across past prognostications buried in the back numbers, and I perpetually wonder at how inaccurate they are. Here is The Independent for 30 December 1995, for instance (yes, my piles go back years) and a feature called "These Are The Rising Stars of 1996", with the subheading, "Which names will you hear everywhere in the year

the views of The Independent's critics... Here are those names.

Gillian Wearing, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Georgina Starr, Philip Osment, Alexandra Gilbreath, James Macdonald, Daniel Harding, Natalie Clein, David Sawer, Liv Tyler, Michael Winterbottom, Elizabeth Shue, Raissa, The Bluetones, The 60 Ft Dolls, Joan Osbourne, Adam Cooper, John Hannah, Justin Bell...

One or two of these names do actually ring a bell with me, but I sure as hell didn't spend any part of 1996 hearing them everywhere. Or 1997.

Or 1998.

And I am fairly certain the editor of the paper didn't get David Benedict in at the end of 1996 and say:

ahead? David Benedict canvassed "Now this is pretty serious, Benedict. We have kept a tab on the rising stars of 1996, the ones that you tipped a year ago, and very few of them seem to have perceptibly risen at all. A lot of readers have written in, wondering why we got it so wrong. Before I sack you and your critics, is there anything you'd like to say?"

If it had happened, and Benedict had had any sense, he'd have said: "Yes. It's just a game, you dolt. It's a cheerful way of filling space at the end of the year. It doesn't mean anything and nobody takes it that seriously.

Bit like the weather forecast, really. And the political soothsayers. And the football previewers. And the share tippers. And the fashion crystal-gazers. And... well, pretty well everyone, really.

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We should not be afraid of controlled human cloning

THE EMOTIONS raised by human "cloning" are predictable, and have been in play again following the expert recommendation that scientists should be permitted to clone human embryos in the very early stages of development. Critics complain that an important principle will be breached; for the first time, human beings themselves will be produced outside the normal course of sexual reproduction, raising the possibility, albeit distant, that scientists could raise identical humans to adulthood.

Authorising such experiments on human embryos would indeed be a momentous step, which no amount of renaming of the subject will disguise. The Human Genetics Advisory Commission (HGAC) and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) employ new terminology to make their case. Cell Nucleus Replacement is the term scientists use for cloning embryos less than 14 days old: but this will indeed mean that human beings, albeit embryonic, will have been cloned.

We should not be afraid of this step. We do not, in any case, treat embryos as we do human beings after birth: limited experimentation is already legal within 14 days of fertilisation, and this latest development holds out far greater medical benefits than the types of experiment that are already allowed.

If doctors in the future were able to clone organs from our bodies, the rejection of transplants might be averted. If "harvesting" brain cells could replace cells damaged by disorders such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease, much more pain and misery would be averted.

These are the hopes of scientists working on cloning embryos, since if they can clone the so-called "stem cells", the parents of all future cells in the body, they may learn how to govern the growth of those cells. Ministers should not deny the alieviation of human suffering via embryo research, a principle that has already been conceded, because of some inarticulate public unease.

What the public object to is the threat of reproductive cloning, whereby human beings would be duplicated. Yesterday's report rules this out, separating the process of repairing damaged tissues from the morally repugnant threat of reproducing ourselves. It is true that a cloned embryo could in theory grow into a person similar to the "parent" embryo, if implanted into a human womb; but legislation needs to respond to technological advance, and distinguish therapeutic research from reproduction.

New scientific developments always make us uneasy, challenging our views of right and wrong. But if scientists can cure diseases blighting millions, then they should be allowed this limited freedom to clone human embryos, just as they would clone animal cells. The reality is that the clock cannot be turned back, nor the future averted.



A genuine attempt to help the vulnerable

THE GOVERNMENT'S "Third Way" has often been just a vacuous phrase. In his proposals for care in the community. Mr Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has gone some way to endowing the phrase with meaning.

Bulldozing the Victorian piles within which society incarcerated the mentally ill was an action born of the best intentions; their state was a standing affront to a civilised society. It was a very real achievement of the Conservative government that they began to tackle that scandal.

But the policy went too far towards assuming that release was the best cure for all. Combined with a lack of resources, this was a recipe for disaster. A series of highprofile violent crimes committed by patients released into the community rightly brought this to the attention of an

anxious public. Last month an independent inquiry criticised a London local authority for not providing adequate back-up care to Michael Folkes, who stabbed his girlfriend to death after being released into the community.

Mr Dobson's ideas are mostly welcome corrections, providing more services to fill the gap between hospital and unsupervised release. To be effective, the drugs that have allowed many mentally ill people to live relatively normal lives since the Fifties and Sixties have to be taken; often the problem is that unsupervised patients forget this, and relapse. When Christopher Clunis stabbed Jonathan Zito on Finsbury Park Underground station in one of the mostpublicised cases, he had stopped taking his medication.

"Outreach teams" will now be equipped to check on patients released into the community; more money will equip beds in hospital for that small number of patients who cannot cope on their own. Secure units will take those

who are a danger to themselves, or to the public. The Government should not go too far in reversing community release, however. The vast majority of released patients are no danger to anyone. Three-quarters of a million patients were released in the first five years of the 1990 Community Care Act, which accelerated the shift to care in the community, while 34 murders had been committed by patients within a year of release. Any murder is a tragedy; but there have been only a tiny number when weighed against the gains in humanity under the scheme. Mr Dobson has to be ready to help those released while still restraining those judged really dangerous.

"Care in the community" has too often meant "dumping in the community", with the most vulnerable people in our society wandering the streets in no position to fend for themselves. There can be no guarantee that Mr Dobson's measures will prevent further tragedies; government will need to match its fine words with hard cash. But for demonstrating his commitment to the mentally ill, for acting in a field where there are few plaudits and fewer votes to be won, Mr Dobson deserves our applause.

Animals have no rights, but we still have duties towards them

MARTYRDOM is attention-seeking themselves, their families and those with the harshest of outcomes. It is a peculiar act, not just because it demands the painful sacrifice of one's own life, but because it is a suicide born, perversely, of optimism. It believes that the aci of self-negation can change the world for the better.

million

Barry Horne, the animal rights hunger striker now nearing death, has elected to add the martyr's garland to the list of tactics with which he hopes to end animal experimentation in laboratories. By starving himself, he has chosen a death associated with oxises of human struggle...

The robust response to this is to say that he is a loony, some of whose supporters have threatened to kill other humans after he has gone. It isn't that easy, I'm afraid. A civilised and morally responsive society should take seriously the concerns of protesters, even if these are raised in ways we find questionable.

True freedom," wrote Rosa Luxemburg in one of her wiser insights, "is the freedom of those who think differently."

To underline this point, unheeded by the Bolsheviks and their heirs, Jan Palach burnt himself to death after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. A years later, inspired by Palach's example and its impact on world opinion, a Protestant priest selfimmolated in East Germany to draw attention to the country's human rights record.

Were they wrong to do so? I have no outright answer to this question. My moral hunch tells me that they were at fault, because they caused

THE UNIVERSAL Declara-

tion of Human Rights is right-

ly praised for its role in focusing

the world's attention on crimes

against human dignity. It has

been used to oppose apartheid

in South Africa, Communist

repression in Eastern Europe

and many other human rights

violations. Why, then, has the

failed to make Sudan the iteus of world condemnation

even though its dictatorship is

who had to deal with the consequences of their actions great anguish. But they also had a certain justification in using shocking tactics because, in both cases, the state refused to engage in discussion of their grievances and forbad mention of them in the media. Their suicides were intended to force attention onto conditions about which the authorities was implacably silent.

Democracies, on the other hand, are obliged to engage in argument with people: even with those who do not accept their peaceful terms. That is why Margaret Thatcher's refusal to allow the voice of Gerry Adams to be broadcast was so disturbing.

Horne operates in an open society, but one which is deeply confused about the status of animals and what claim they have on us. In his muddled and often destructive way, he is forcing our attention onto an issue which demands a structured public debate. The reason there should be a Royal Commission on the treatment of animals in laboratories tand in farms and sport, for that matter) is not that a man on self-imposed death-row says there should be, but because we badly need to sort out our own

contradictory views on the matter. The more we learn about animal consciousness - not least because of some of the experiments the antivivisectionists condemn - and the more we learn of their ability to feel physical pain and psychological distress, the more solicitous we should be about their welfare.

At present, we apply lax standards

presenting the Declaration,

Ambassador Charles Malik of

Lebanon expressed confidence

that it would "serve as a potent

critic of existing practices and

help to transform reality". To

an extent, those hopes have

been realized. With American

leadership, they could also be

realized in Sudan. What better

way to mark the anniversary of

a document born of the deter-

mination that mass suffering

should not have be in vain?

The New York Times, US



ANNE MCELVOY

In his muddled way, Barry Horne is forcing attention on to an issue which needs public debate

to animals raised for food and increasingly anthropomorphic standards to the others. Some two decades ago, the pop-star Alice Cooper bit the head off chicken and Ozzy Osbourne decapitated a bat (it turned out to have been a dead one, but he did not take the precaution of checking), the response was one of revulsion and concern for Messers Cooper and Osbourne's states of mind, rather than for the animals. I suspect that today, such antics would arouse a rush of furious sympathy for

the creatures. So the protest movement is on the winning side of the argument when it comes to the public's increasing sensibility to animal distress. Most of us are not convinced by the antispeciesist argument that it is better not to find a cure for cancer than to

rats should suffer in order to make recreational drugs safer or that meatproducing animals should be turned into hormonal factories on legs for the sake of man's taste and profit.

Problems like these should command the attention of government in the same way that the future of human cloning or embryology does. The great weakness of the fundamentalist animal rights movement is the philosophical and strategic error it makes by associating the protection of animals with the notion of equal rights with mankind.

I'll say it again in the full knowledge that my desk will be full of furious letters disagreeing: animals do not have rights, in any sense of the word which is helpful in the battle to preserve them from harm inflicted by humans. The classic response to this statement is: "Neither do babies. or people in a permanent vegetative state or the senile elderly." But human beings have the capacity to be bearers of rights and are entitled, if incapable of exercising their own will, to have these rights enforced for them. The most loval Lassie or the most clever Babe of a pig, on the other hand, do not consciously exercise their virtues, however winning to human beings they appear. They cannot morally choose to behave

well or badly. The expansion and enforcement of rights alone does not make a wholesome society. For too long, the intellectual left believed that it did and thus shares responsibility for conditions in which far more people know their

experiment on a rat. But we doubt that rights than know their duties. The result is a neglect - and not only where animals are concerned - of other values which hold society together. reason, compassion, the duty of care and a sense of concern and reverence

towards the world around us. Our duties towards animals are based, not on any shared rights status but for the reason the saintly brother of Father Zossima gives in The Brothers Karamazov: Everyone is responsible for everyone and

everything." My grandfather was an otherwise straightforward Victorian autocrat who took to animal welfare with a zeal that was considered rather odd in a rural and mining area where animals were used for work. He taught me this poem, which I would be grateful if any reader versed in 19th century protest verse could source:

It would ring the bells of heaven with the loudest peal for years If the parson lost his senses and the

people came to theirs And he and they together got down in angry prayers

For little blind pit-ponies and dancing dogs and bears.

Prayers, angry or otherwise, are not what Horne and his sympathisers consider to be a sufficient response to their demands. But behind the pathos. the old lines make a point which should be their strongest argument. We owe it to animals to respect their well-being and to re-evaluate their conditions as our knowledge about them expands because it is part of our moral status as humans to bear responsibility for them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am ready to answer before my people and the whole world for what happened." Aslan Maskhadov. Chechen President

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"People say law but they mean money." Ralph Emerson. American essayist



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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Comment on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

victims of violence and disstates homosexuals can be disgender in work, housing, and

AMERICAN WOMEN are still missed from work because of their sexual proclivities. Fedcrimination. Black women suf- eral and state laws guarantee fer from racism in addition to many rights. They ban disgender discrimination. In 39 crimination based on race or

freedom of speech, religion, the establishment of societies, and the right to a fair trial. Despite all these guarantees, serious violations of human rights continue to take place regularly. Why is the American eye jaundiced, only seeing what takes place in other countries? Al Ayam, Bahrain

education. They guarantee

IN 50 years, human rights have entered the mainstream of in- in progress. ternational discourse. Even Conberra Times, Australia

problem there can be no blind spots. Nelson Mandela saw the Declaration as "a ray of hope at one of our darkest hours". Mrs Roosevelt deserves our thanks for her role in drafting a blueprint for a better future. But the job was not finished that December: it is a work still

the harshest tyrant uses the

language of rights if only to dis-

tort its universal meaning. In a

world where abuses are a daily

arguably the worst human rights violator in the world? In

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PANDORA

ALUN MICHAELS campaign to become leader of the new Welsh Assembly has taken another tumble on the downward slope. On Monday Pandora reported that the Secretary of State for Wales sustained a double blow when only 25 people attended the first of his devolution tour meetings at Newport Civic Centre last week, whilst, in the same building, Newport West Labour Party voted 23-3 to back Michael's rival for the nomination, Rhodri Morgan.

The latest hiccup occurred in Neath, constituency of Peter Hain, junior Welsh Office Minister and Michael's campaign manager. Neath Labour Party's General **Management Committee** voted 20-16 in favour of Rhodri Morgan, Luckily Michael was not speaking at the same venue this time.

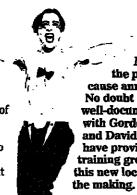
HEADS WERE turned in the

Commons on Monday when the MP for Preseli Pembrokeshire, Jackie Lawrence, arrived for the start of a new parliamentary week - her hair dved from brown to blonde. A somewhat amazed Lawrence told Pandora: "I've only been back two hours and already the telegraph wire is buzzing." Stepping back from her amazement at the parliamentary grapevine, which is naming her the Marilyn Monroe of Pembrokeshire, the MP admitted that she had died her hair to mask greyness. "As everyone knows, you can't go back to your original colouring à la Ann Widdecombe," Lawrence confided.

PANDORA SALUTES the burgeoning British actors Alan Cumming (pictured) and Jane Horrocks, who have come far since their success in the Donmar Warehouse production of Cabaret five years ago. Cumming, who is still playing the role of Emcee in the Broadway production. has carved out a growing film career to include Titus Andronicus with Anthony Hopkins, due to start filming next year. Meanwhile, Jane Horrocks is building on the musical roles in The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, which British film-maker Mark Herman has transferred to celluloid. Herman explained to EW Online why he kept Horrocks in the lead role: "To hear a

impression coming out of an apartment in Chicago isn't as quirky as hearing Garland come out of an apartment in Scarborough, It seemed immoral to do a version of Little Voice without

Judy



National Airport was renamed the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport by a narrow margin in Congress this February, Democrats were dismayed. But this was just the beginning, as-Grover Norquist, chairman of the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project, explains: We have two goals; to get something named after Rouald Reagan in all 50 states, and have as many [things] named after Reagan as there are for John F Kennedy, a suitable honour given Reagan's accomplishment as accomplishment as President." Reaganisation doesn't stop at home, Norquist tells the Washington Times: "We're dealing with [governments] around the world, looking to name things for Reagan internationally, such as we've done for Churchill here in America." Is there a place in Britain for the Ronald and Margaret

Tunnel of Love?

TOUGH TORY MP David

WHEN THE Washington

Davis, not known for his sentimental displays of emotion, was seen on American television this weekend hugging his friend Victor Daley. Thirty years ago, during the Vietnam war. Daley succeeded in a dangerous helicopter rescue of fellow soldiers. Daley was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions but, in the confusion of the war, the Pentagon lost the papers. He received his award last week at a ceremony in Iowa that David Davis flew out to attend. As Chairman of the House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee, Davis is normally the hammer of bureaucratic incompetence. However the MP was tolerant of the Pentagon's error: "If they hadn't screwed up, his sons and friends would not have had this chance to celebrate Vic's outstanding courage."

THAT FAMOUS football disciplinarian, referee David Elleray, will be putting a few more noses local campaign against noise pollution in Harrow. The Premier League referee and former Harrow School housemaster will be quietly blowing his whistle on loud music and showing

card to noisy neighbours who, he tells the Harrow Leader, "shatter the peace and cause annoyance". No doubt Elleray's well-documented run-ins with Gordon Strachan and David Beckham will have provided invalulable training ground for this new local hero in

Are human rights an optional extra?

THERE IS no statement of international intent more moving than the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With the wounds of the Holocaust still raw. the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948 deplored the "disregard and contempt for human rights (that) have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of maniond" and demanded that "hamen beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want".

But on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Decla-ration, the United Rations often seems many denterated with dis-pensing aid then defeating human-rights. Aid the attendand human-rights. Aid the attendand human-rights. And the attendance of the the UN's Special Rapporteurs, its human rights menitors, we also the out salaries of aidless.

UN agencies with multi-million dollar investments in despotic states seldom use their economic clout to fight for the victims of despotism. And concern to protect aid programmes, to keep aid flights going out and donor dollars coming in, has at times led the UN to turn its back on the victims of aggression



JULIE FLINT

Fifty years after the Holocaust, the UN is complicit in a genocidal war in Sudan

 thereby ensuring that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights fails to be a declaration of universol human rights.

Fifty years after the Holocaust, the UN's disregard for human rights in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan -an area that should be of special interest to Britain - has made it complicit in another policy of annihilation: a genocidal war against a people whose society is a model of political and religious tolerance, whose very existence threatens the National Islamic Front's (NIF) project of a conformist Islamic extremism.

The Nuba, an amalgam of black African tribes in Arab-dominated northern Sudan, are looking into the abyss. The photographs of George Rodger and Leni Riefenstahl have become part of the immortal iconography of Africa. But the Nuha themselves are fighting for survival.

Long a despised minority in Sudan, many Nuba took up arms in 1985 alongside the southern-dominated Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Reprisals followed. The mountains were blockaded and a war to suppress the SPLA insurrection grew into a scorched-earth Holy War. A programme of forced relocation moved more than 250,000 Nuba villagers into distant "peace camps" where they are tortured and killed, denied food and medicine, and press-ganged into the ever-growing "Peoples' Defence Forces" as ac-

complices in their own destruction. Women are raped ~ with the express intent of creating a generation of non-Nuba children - and put to

work in mechanised farms that enrich the NIF and degrade the soil. Children are separated from their parents and sent away for military training and Islamic indoctrination.

Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), the UN aid operation mandated to work in all war-affected regions of Sudan, pumps resources into the government-controlled side of the mountains, where aid is deployed as a weapon to lure the Nuba away from their resistance, but acquiesces in the government's refusal to allow relief into rebel-controlled areas.

This year the NIF's war of starvation brought famine to the Nuba Mountains. In May, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan made a solemn commitment to get relief into the mountains. Seven months later, the Nuba are still waiting. OLS has spent a million dollars a day in southern Sudan, but has not put a single bag of grain into rebel-controlled areas. Hundreds of Nuba have died from hunger. Thousands have fled into government hands.

Despite this, on their own and away from international attention, the Nuba have established a civilian administration, a judicial system, an embryonic police force, a nursing school and teacher-training college. They have trained human rights monitors, organised a religious tolerance conference and taken a popular vote on whether to fight on or surrender. (After six days) debate, they voted overwhelmingly

But the UN is today an integral part of Khartoum's arsenal and Nuba leader Youssef Kuwa has warned that the Nuba will be committing suicide if they continue to let aid enter government-controlled areas unopposed. Fifty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declared that "Man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression" the UN has become an accomplice to

tyranny in Sudan. Clare Short is correct in asserting that politics, not aid, is the solution to Africa's problems. But in Sudan the injustice of aid is part of the problem. How can the international community broker a peace if it carries no credibility in the Nuba Mountains? Aid is politics, and the politics of aid are killing the Nuba

My advice to Mr Hague on how to regain popularity

MY ALL-TIME low point in opinion polls was in the first months of the Labour-run GLC when, after a horrendous avalanche of attacks from Fleet Street (as it then was), an audience selection poll revealed that 35 per cent of Londoners thought I was doing a good or satisfactory job, while 52 per cent thought I was bad or appalling. I thought that was as bad as things could get until John Major's satisfaction rating dipped briefly to just under 20 per cent. Of course, William Hague would die for such figures.

Given how highly MPs of all parties rate Hague's performance at the dispatch ber and commend his tack of arrogance or other unoleasent character trails, it's haid to work out why his ratings are so bad that he is even managing to trail the Tory Party. The Tories have now seized the record for worst polling record Party, which gained this unhappy accolade during Michael Foot's leadership prior to the 1983 election.

As any good Marxist will tell you, individuals do not determine the course of history, the social and economic forces that sweep through the world do. While this is a generalisation, I think it contains the core of the truth about the relevance of individuals to the political process. It's clearly not an accident that the demise of the Tory Party coincides with the defeat of Newt Gingrich in America, while almost all the governments of Europe are now under the control of the left or centre-left. Given that only 10 years ago the predominant ideology of governments in America and Europe was firmly in the hands of right-wing free marketeers, clearly something bigger than Hague is at work.

I have no doubt that if the Tories had selected Ken Clarke as leader they would now be doing better in

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LIVINGSTONE

Given his lack of obvious unpleasant traits, it's hard to work out why his poll ratings are so low

the polls and Clarke would be having much fun on the vexed question of Britain's over-inflated interest merely be a matter of degree, and Labour would still be on course for a second election victory.

Hague has a particular problem

that most other right-wing party leaders today are spared. For he cannot avoid the issue of Europe and the euro, bearing down on his party with the destructive force of a tactical nuclear weapon. Hague's problem is that the Tory Party has always been a coalition between big business and the petty bourgeoisie, and, on the issue of Europe, their interests clash. Big business is not prepared to support a political party that might hold back from joining the euro. Every corporate boss knows that, while Britain staying out of the euro for two or three years presents no long-term problem, the Tory policy of remaining outside for at least a decade would put most of Britain's big multinationals at a severe disadvantage. Indeed, such a longterm exclusion from the euro could

lead many corporations to consider relocating their main centres of operation to the euro zone.

The other component of the great Tory coalition are the thousands of small businesses throughout Britain that, since time immemorial, have staffed and run their local Conservative associations. While big business can compete on the European playing field, and trade unionists should be protected by Europe's social agenda, the middle class is the group most likely to be squeezed by the euro project. This is Hague's dilemma. The

rank and file of his party, believing they are acting to defend their standard of living have carried out a veritable ethnic cleansing of Tory MPs, picking on the slightest Europhile tendencies. Much of the rhetoric behind this purge has been xenophobic and, particularly, antibeen the harsher economic climate threatened by closer European integration. As long as this is the predominant ethos in the modern Tory party, big business will continue to work for the return of Blair. If it began to look as though Hague might actually be moving towards an election victory based on support from Conrad Black's Daily Telegraph and the Murdoch empire primarily because it stands to benefit more from American economic dominance), I suspect Britain's great corporations would act decisively to thwart that victory.

So Hague's dilemma is, in reality, insoluble. He can't win without the support of big business and he can only regain that support by reversing the party's policy. Any attempt to do this would plunge his party into a civil war that would make Labour's infighting of the early Eighties look like a Methodist tea party.



Churchill looks on as Hague reflects on the Tories' problems

If this were not bad enough, robotic assumption of all the neodogma of the Thatcher-Reagan years as the rest of the world is moving on to talk about managing trade and capital flows in order to tame the market. The most dramatic example of this is George Soros, who, on Monday's Newsnight, attacked the rules by which international investors operated. These, he argued, did not have enough regard for social consequences. He condemned the dogma of the "moral (the objection of which to Europe is. force" of the market. Markets, he said, were not moral but amoral.

Yesterday, asked whether Western governments and multinational organisations had begun to understand that corruption is a force not just for economic instability but also for political instability, he replied emphatically: "Not sufficiently." He added: "There is always somebody who pays, and international business is generally the main source of corruption." He also attacked the "internecine battle between the oligarchs" in Russia, where Yeltsin's

Hague has the other problem that liberal nostrums has led to the his party is still tied to all the free- deepest and most prolonged recession in any country in h Soros will be subscribing to Socialist Economic Bulletin at this rate. Given that Hague cannot reopen

the issue of Europe, his only chance to regain some popular appeal would be to put the Tories at the forefront of the fight to protect Britain from the ravages of the unregular international economy. Such a stance would not be out of line with the broad message of the election campaign of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, which managed to capture 3 per cent of the Tory vote. It is being taken up by right-wing populists in America and Europe. But it would put Hague in the same camp as Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's National Front not a happy prospect. Perhaps the best advice I could give Hague is to resign, spend more time with Ffion and let some other poor sod try and square these circles. Only someone as mad as John Redwood is fit for

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Sorrows carried in a snail's shell FROM THE time they

build bridges one after another to all those around them, deepening their links with other people and things, thus creating their own world to live in. If such bridges are not built, or if the bridge fails to fulfil its function, or if the will to build bridges is lost, people become helplessly isolated and lose their peace.

I think, too, that our bridges must reach not only outward but in ard, continuously connecting one to one's inmost self, discovering one's true self, and being an incentive to the proper setting up of the

Although I was caught up in evacuee life because of the war, the protecting hand of my elders was always there, so my childhood was a time of relative tranquility. Nevertheless, the repeated changes of life environment were hard to bear for a child, and I sometimes felt ill at ease with my surroundings and even was at odds with my own self, and I remember there were times when I was quite exhausted. At such times, how much did I

FROM THE time they couraged by a few books that are born, people must I had by me, which, though they could not solve each and every problem, helped me to go on!

While I was still a little girl, I was told a story of a snail. Since my memory of it is blurred, I will talk about it following the book on which it was probably based: The Sor-rows of a Little Snail by Niimi Nankichi. Suddenly one day, a snail became aware that the shell upon his back was stuffed full with sorrows, and went off to see his friend, saying that he could no longer go on living, and pouring out his tale of woe. But his snail friend said: "You are not alone in that. The shell on my back, too, is filled

full of sorrows." The little snail went to another friend and then another friend and told them the same tale of woe, but from every friend the same reply came back. So the snail at last came to realise that everyone had his burden of sorrows to bear. "It is not only me: I too must bear my own burden of sorrows."

snail decides to stop bemoaning his lot. What age would I have been

The story ends when this



PODIUM EMPRESS MICHIKO

The Empress of Japan reminisces about her childhood reading to a conference in New Delhi on books for the young

Grandfather and my uncles and aunts, read to me and told me tales up to about my second year in elementary school, I think I would have been between four and seven.

At that age, I had not yet known anything you could call a great sorrow. For that reason no doubt, when I learnt that in the end the little snail had stopped bemoaning his lot, I simply thought, "oh, good!". enjoy and how greatly was I en- at that time? Since Mother, and That was all. I gave no special

kept coming to mind: it would seem that the sorrows that filled the shell quite full, and the sudden awareness of this, and the anxiety that made the snail feel he could no longer go on liv-ing, were all indelibly engraved on my memory. As I grew a little older, I could no longer simply conclude "oh, good!", and I even had at times some vague, uneasy intimations that just to go on living was no easy thing. In spite of that, I certainly. did not dislike this story.

Looking back on it now, what did my childhood reading do for me? Above all, it gave me pleasure, and then laid the oundation for my later reading during adolescence. At times it gave me roots; at times it gave me wings. These roots and wings were a great help to me as I threw bridges out and in, expanding bit by bit and nurturing my own personal world.

Reading gave me opportunities to ponder over joy and sorrow. It was through reading books, with many kinds of grief delineated in them, that I could come to know how deeply to foster in them hearts people other than myself can susceptible to joy, hearts feel, and that I could perceive sensitively tuned to joy.

thought to the whole matter.
But afterwards, that story

the many hurts they bear.
When I think that there are children who go through griefs and pains beyond comparison with mine, maybe I should refrain from saying that in my own sheltered childhood, too, there were such things as sor-rows. But, in any life whatever, there is pain and sorrow. The tears of every single child have their specific weight. For me, when I was caught up in my own small sorrows, it was a blessing to be able to find joy in books. Learning of life's sorrows to some extent adds more depth to one's own life, and deepens thought for others. Similarly, coming in touch with joy in books, the joy that was the wellspring of creative works by writers past and present, imparts the joy of living to the reader, and when at times he is overcome by helplessness, may help restore his hope in life, providing wings for him to take flight once again.

In order that children may cope with life in this world of SOLTOWS, as well as preparing them to endure sorrows, I think it is so important

BABE: PIG IN TI Director: George M Starring: Magda S G Daily The follow-up to p

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That sinking feeling – again



ANNA SOMERS COCKS

Why do the Italians have such difficulty deciding how to protect the world's most beautiful city?

ON THURSDAY if the decision is not delayed yet again, Edo Ronchi, the Italian Minister for the Environment, is expected to reject the plan to build mobile barriers at the three openings from the lagoon of Venice into the Adriatic.

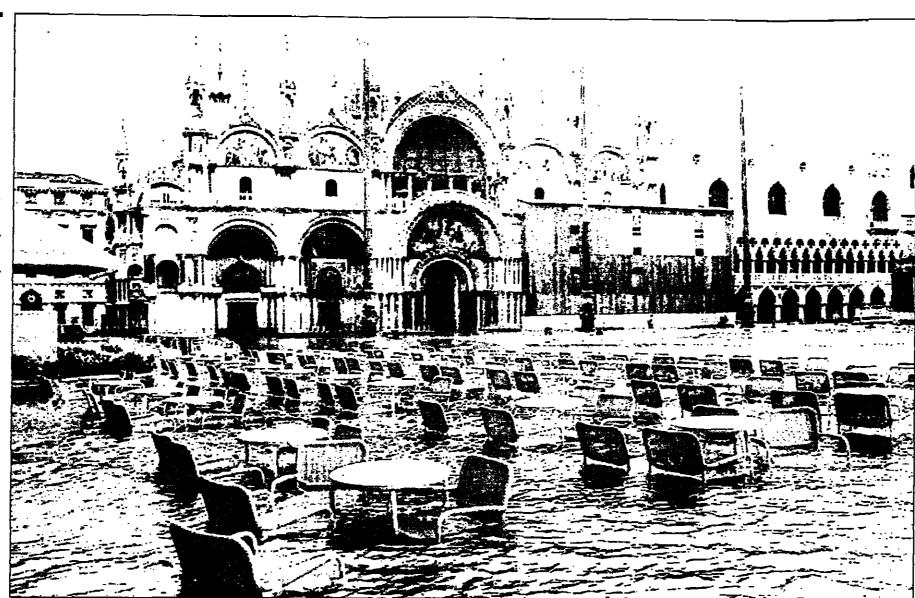
This is despite the fact that he has before him a report (completed this summer by five eminent experts from institutions including MIT and the Institute for Environmental Studies in Amsterdami which says that the barriers are ecologically safe and effective defences; this is despite the fact that the report was commissioned by the Italian government itself, this is despite the fact that St Mark's Square was under more than a metre of water again last week, and will be dozens of times more this year. We can be sure of that. At the beginning of the century, St Mark's Square was flooded about seven times a year. by 1989 it was 40 times in the year and in 1996 it was 99 times.

Even the politician who himself has to wade through the water, the mayor of Venice, makes sibvlline statements when asked whether he is in favour of the barriers; he is not ertly against them, or for them, but says that they need to be studied further and that their financing needs to be clarified.

Why do the Italians have such difficulty in deciding how to protect the world's most beautiful city? Much of it comes down to the cat's cradle of coalitions that is Italian politics at state, regional and city levels. Thus Massimo d'Alema, the Prime Minister, upsets the Greens at his peril because he depends on their support to stay in power, and the whether it will happen, merely Minister of the Environment is a en. Mayor Cacciari of Venice is also dependent on Green support for his position.

And yet the evidence for a declining state of affairs is incontrovertible. The seaweed lines on the marble steps to the Venetian palaces show how much higher have accepted the global situation the water now laps than when they were built. This is partly because the whole of north-east Italy is subsiding, and partly because, after the Second World War, water was ted from the subsoil by the

nactories on the nearby mainland (this has now ceased).



St Mark's Square lies under a metre of water last month after heavy rains left Venice flooded once again

In addition, as we all know, the seas are rising. Scientists worldwide generally agree that by the middle of the next century, the waters will be about 20cm higher everywhere, including the Mediterranean. Weather patterns are also changing, leading to more lowpressure systems and storms. So quite apart from the frequent small floods, the risk of a storm surge tide (a low-pressure system coinciding with a high tide and strong wind) of the kind that put the whole of Venice under nearly two metres of water in 1966, is greater than ever Experts say that it is not a question when. It could be tomorrow, this being the flooding season in Venice when everyone keeps their gum-

boots at the ready. Across the world - in south-east England, the Netherlands and parts of the east coast of the US, for instance - populations and politicians and are planning for the future. They are preparing to add billions to the money they have already invested in their sea defences. By contrast, Italy, which has this especially fragile and lovely creation to protect, has managed to turn the issue into a punchball for party politics and

nothing has been done - nor does it look as though it will be.

Back in 1981, a scheme for mobile barriers at the three openings between the lagoon and the Adriatic was first developed and went on being improved, until in 1992 the prototype was tested successfully. It works on the principle of a series of hinged flaps that normally lie invisibly on the sea bed but are raised when needed. When down, ships and tides can move through the mouths of the lagoon as usual. But over the last 10 years,

opposition in Italy to these barriers has grown. It is of three sorts. Big business fears that if the barriers have to be closed frequently, ships and, in particular, the petrol tankers entering the lagoon to get to the refineries on the other side, will be held up, and money will be lost. The Green objection is that the lagoon has been as sinfully mistreated as the rainforests of the Amazon, by deepening the shipping channel (for the said tankers), by building fish farms, and by polluting it with phosphates washed down from the agriculture in the hinterland. If we could only return to the good old ways of the Venetians under the doges, they say, then the flooding protect Venice. The historical Vene-

problem would be much reduced thut they daren't predict by how much it would be reduced, nor does anyone in this camp concede that the modern world's ecology bears no relationship to what it was 200 years ago - which is paradoxical, considering that these people are ecologists).

The short-term pragmatists' objection is that, because the barriers are expensive - an estimated £1.5bn spread over the eight years they would take to build there might be less money for the other things that need doing in Venice, such as dredging the canals. This seems to be behind the apparently perverse reluctance on the part of Venice's mayor to see his city protected.

The truth is that there is a fundamental confusion in people's minds which leads them to think that it is a choice between ecological virtue or some kind of barrier, when it is not a question of either/or, but both. The lagoon must be looked after as tenderly as when the doges used to wed the waters with a ring, and yet we must also accept that conditions have changed fundamentally in the last 200 years, and new measures must be built to

tians themselves did not shrink from innovations, such as the great sea walls that still defend the lagoon.

It must also be accepted that no barriers will be the final solution. Just as the Thames Barrier comes to the planned end of its economic life after 50 years, in 2030, and will be succeeded by something else, so the price of keeping Venice for our grandchildren will be endless vigilance and expense.

Is Venice worth the expense? An evaluation of the risk and cost benefit involved needs to be made for the city, if only because the people who say that the barriers are too expensive have already, however unconsciously, decided that Venice is not worth the investment. With their vast Deltaplan for defending themselves from the sea, the Dutch have already brought such cost/risk evaluations down to a fine art and could give lessons in how to proceed.

All that is needed is the will to do these things. In the early Nineties, a European politician called Carlo Ripa di Meana, an Italian, suggested that the Venice should be declared independent of Italy - a sort of San Marino - so that the chaotic politics and bureaucracy would no longer get in the way of looking after it properly. Italian public opinion was deeply offended and the idea was rightly derided.

Venice is, after all, Italy's glory but also its responsibility. It is the duty of its government to end 15 years of indecision as soon as possible. Then, when it has decided to act, the rest of Europe and the world can help with the costs, if help is needed. But until Italy does decide, the rest of us can only stand by anxiously, fearing the big flood with all the dreadful destruction and perhaps loss of life that it will bring with it.

What is almost worse is that we are already watching the gradual erosion of the social, economic and physical fabric of the city by the dozens of small acque atte, as every year, more and more young, productive people leave the city for ever, and the economy becomes more and more dependent on tourism alone.

As the highly successful manufacturer of the Aprilia motorscooter, Ivano Beggio, said at a recent symposium in Venice on how to revive its economy: "What businessman in his right mind will invest seriously in a city where his employees have to wear gumboots to work one day in three?"

RIGHT OF REPLY

Doug **MCAVOY**



The NUT's General Secretary responds to our defence of the National Literacy Project

THE NATIONAL Literacy Project is a success story. Its development had all the characteristics that promote school improvement: the enthusiasm of teachers who knew they were in on something big; a decent time-scale for implementation (two years); quality professional development; and partnership between those responsible for the project and those at the chalk face.

With such preconditions for excellence, it is hardly surprising that children in the project leapt ahead by eight to twelve months, though it is cause for celebration.

So why is the Government's successor literacy strategy problematic?

At the core is a fact that the Government still has difficulty in recognising. Critical to its future is an entitlement within which teachers' professional views are central.

Instead, the Government attempted its version of the Great Leap Forward with a six-month time-scale, and with a string of veiled threats about the dire consequences for schools if they did not operate the strategy.

Remarkably, the Government's attempt to pretend that the Literacy Strategy was a requirement on schools was rejected by the Chief Inspector himself, who told the NUT that it was not Ofsted's job "to comment upon the extent to which the school has taken on the literacy and numeracy strategies'

For teachers to back the literacy initiative enthusiastically, they have to feel that their enthusiasm and commitment are recognised. Enthusiasm and commitment cannot be imposed. They have to come from teachers themselves, a lesson which the Government must learn for its latest big project, the Green Paper on the future of the teaching profession.

Memoirs of a time traveller

"SCIENCE FICTION has a remarkable and expanding history this century. It was developed from cheap paperbacks and magazines to requence all forms of culture, whether acknowledged or otherwise. How strange that it is not better attended to by those deep in literary studies. The loss is theirs." So writes Brian Aldiss, a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and one of the five major British writers of science fiction (and much else) in this century. The others are JG Ballard, John Wyndham, Olaf Stapledon and John Christopher. If one were to add to those names the major British writers who have moved in and out of science fiction, the list would take in Kingsley Amis, HG Wells, William Golding, Rudyard Kipling, CS Lewis, Doris Lessing, Anthony Burgess and even Salman Rushdie.

And yet (and this is the continuing burden of Aldiss's memoirs), the genre is confined to the outskirts of "proper literature". To acknowledge that one likes it in literary society is to confess nerddom. Aldiss tells how a journalist from

WEDNESDAY POEM

OVER THE FIELDS BY MAURA DOOLEY

Whoever heard of a seamless garment? This is a sky scabby with stars, a moon that eats a hole in the grass. a night announced by the drone of a plane and lit by tail lights.

There's owl screech and fox-bark, wake them and the geese will laugh blisters to your face. But the phone still rings. the television flickers. over the fields wires hum.

Our poems this week come from 'Field Days', edited by Angela King and Sue Clifford for Common Ground. It costs £10 (inclusive) from Common Ground. PO Box 25309, London NW5 1ZA



WEDNESDAY BOOK

IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE: MY LIFE AS AN ENGLISHMAN BY BRIAN ALDISS, LITTLE, BROWN, £20

a leading broadsheet was sent to take the piss out of a conference of science fiction writers. He liked what he saw and wrote about it in friendly terms - only to have his copy repissified, so to speak, by his editor.

Long ago, CP Snow wrote of the "Two Cultures", science and the arts. He got it wrong. The two cultures are science and anti-science. At my school during the uneasy transition from war to peace, two programmes were introduced: one to introduce the scientists to "culture" ("Civilising the C Block," it was called), one to introduce the classicists to science. Brilliantly conceived by a pioneer in the field, it was still bitterly resented, even sulked through, by the cream of the classical sixth form - Oxbridge open scholars, one and all. The two cultures had already been established in the run-in to O-levels. if not in the indifferent way that mathematics

was taught at primary and prep schools. Aldiss's autobiography takes him from a lower middle-class childhood in the pre-war West Country through war service in India, Burma and Sumatra (in the Signals) to Oxford. He never attended the university there, but the city remained for him the focus of his life thereafter - continually deserted, as continually returned to. I met him briefly there in 1950. He was working in Parker's bookshop, on the Turl, having moved there from Sanders' bookshop on the High, three stories down from the double room in Oriel in which I celebrated my 21st birthday. Both shops have now disappeared, Parker's into an annexe of Blackwell's.

These dates place bim fair and square among the British school of writers usually and erroneously identified as the Angry Young Men. Its leading figures were the young Kingsley Amis. John Wain, John Braine and Iris Murdoch. Essentially, they were analogues of the 18thcentury picaresque novelists; what they shared terrupted by the war. At the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen, it dispatched them hither and thither all over the world, subjecting them to control by, often, third-rate self-important shits, in conditions of primitive if not barbaric disorder.

Survival with one's sense of selfhood unbroken by all the assaults on it was allimportant; and rebellion against attempts by military and other authorities to humiliate and break them is a common theme of this group's

Aldiss differed only in that he served in southeast Asia. His use of this wartime experience in the Tom Stubbs novels (beginning with A Hand-

Aldiss's memoirs are maddeningly bitty, often reading like jottings in a writer's notebook. But out of these jottings there emerges, pointilliste-style, a literary and confessional autobiography of the first order. This is not merely because the life he has led and the books he has written out him fairly and squarely on the border between "respectable" literature and science fiction, but also for the unnervingly accurate picture he gives of his (and my) generation. His is a book to be dipped into, read slowly and savoured for its continuous evocation of the past

reared Boy) was uproariously memorable.

generation loved and fought for. In a recent article the young Tory historian, Andrew Roberts, expressed his envy of those who lived through and fought in the Second World War. This is a book which should be read by all the instant geniuses of the media today. There is, after all, something to be said for being an old

75 years of the century in an England which his

fart and telling it like it was. DONALD CAMERON WATT



was a settled and secure childhood, suddenly in- Brian Aldiss: proof that there is something to be said for being an old fart

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César

one of the original agents provocateurs of modern art. A member of the New Realism movement who enjoyed squashing automobiles and other metal objects to create his work, César often attracted controversy. Eventually, the darling of the avant-garde became so mopeds, bedframes, bumpers, coffamous in his homeland that, in 1975, the French film industry asked him to create the statuette presented to actors as the country's equivalent of the Oscar. There could only be one name for the award: the Cesar.

Born in 1921 along with a twin sis-Italian immigrants and grew up in Marseilles. "I'm a peasant, a selftaught man," he was fond of saying. "I didn't go to school, I played truant. Chance meetings in cafés mattered more to me than books. The street taught me the lessons of life."

Although he left school at 12 to work with his father; a barrel-maker, César would spend hours drawing. He was also influenced by his mother, who worked as a cleaning lady but loved Michelangelo, and he took evening classes at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Marseilles from 1935 to 1942.

After a year of forced labour under the Germans in the Var area with les Chantiers de la Jeunesse, he won a scholarship and studied at l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris. Already a rebellious talent, César would infuriate his lecturers by ignoring their teachings and creating tiny figures

out of metal or plaster. Coming back to Marseilles in 1944, he struggled doing odd jobs and eventually returned north. He may have been in the right place at the right time but, for a struggling conceptual artist, life was hard. "At Les Deux Magots, I hung out with Jean Cocteau and Orson Welles. They went there because they were famous. I was sitting outside on the terrace because I didn't have anywhere else to go," he recalled later.

In the early Fifties, hammer and blowtorch in hand, César set about moulding and reshaping scrap metal found on rubbish tips and at the Villetaneuse factory. "It doesn't cost me anything," was his justification. He created fantastic, eerie-looking animals (Poisson, Chat, Chauve-Souris Rascasse Moustique Scorpion, a veritable three-dimensional bestiary) and human figures with tragic or comic expressions *U.Homme Qui Marche*: produced in 1954, the year of his first show, at the Galerie Lucien Durand in Paris, L'Homme de Draguignan, La Parisienne, La Grande Duchesse, Nus de Saint-Denis).

He showed expressionist leanings. His work also betrayed the in- bition entitled Compressions et Exfluence of Picasso, Duchamp, Brancusi Giacometti and Germaine stands in La Défense, the Paris Richier Indeed, César's new direc- business district, while a 30ft-tall tion paralleled the Arte Povera bronze version still welcomes visimovement in Italy and that of tors to the Musée d'Art Contempo-

THE FRENCH sculptor César was France's own motiéristes, who used "lost and found" material to create their work.

A move to bigger metal panels. like the ones used by car manufacturers, made Cesar's name. Soon he was bashing, beating and burning heavy and light metal alike. Solex fee-makers, tins, cans, crates and even fake Cartier watches seized by French customs, everything was fair game for Cesar's squash-and-melt approach. It was only a matter of time before he graduated to compressing a whole car with a power hammer.

The resulting blocks of twisted ter, César Baldaccini was the son of steel invited grandiose intellectual interpretations. Ironic comment on the consumer society? Symbol of a decaying Western civilisation? In 1960, the metal cubes drove political and cultural commentators of both left and right to write reams of prose about the sculptor His detractors waded in and called César a charlatan. Museums and collectors bought his sculptures all the same.

> Solex mopeds. bedframes, cans, even fake Cartier watches seized by Customs; all were fair game for César's squashand-melt approach

César would point out that "a ton of melted iron is not like a blank canvas. You have to feel and master the material, make it yours. It has its

According to the art critic Ann Crémin, "the French establishment always has trouble with commercial success. César was a life force. Wherever he was, there was a buzz. People gravitated towards him, yet César refused to take himself seriously. He even compacted the wreckage of a friend's car after he'd been in a serious accident so the survivor could display the sculpture in his Paris living room. A masterstroke worthy of Andy Warhol!"

César also worked with more traditional materials like plaster. creating Le Pouce, a huge repro-duction of his own thumb, which caused a sensation at the 1967 Salon de Mai in Paris as part of an exhipansions. A 40ft tall variation now



rain in Marseilles. Taking the commercial potential of the idea to its logical conclusion, the sculptor eventually made endless reproductions of his famous thumb, for every budget and in every size (including a thumb-size desktop model).

The discovery of polyurethane excited the artist even more: the foamlike compound which expanded or contracted according to the space available seemed tailor-made for him. In 1968, he came to London and demonstrated his new processes at the Tate Gallery. He was feted by the intelligentsia in Tokyo, Paris, New York and Helsinki.

In the late Sixties he created Sein ("Breast") by moulding the decolletage of a Crazy Horse dancer and then blowing up the dimensions to a monumental and breathtaking scale. Confronted with a symbol of their Freudian fixation, the French male-dominated media had a field day. Cesar appeared on television and became a household name.

was happier when portrayed as a was first presented the following died Paris 6 December 1998.

bon vivant pottering around his workshop in his clogs and overalls. Always self-deprecating, he would go as far as declaring he was "useless, hopeless, worthless. I have no culture, no education whatsoever, I'm not an intellectual. I like to touch. It's my hands that make my head work. My sensibility drove me to create. I have a purely physical and organic relationship with art. Everything to

me is tactile and instinctive." He would sometimes bemoan the lack of "an art dealer to push the work in the United States. I have a difficult life," he claimed. "In fact, I've had several lives, several houses, several stages in my work. I don't disown any of it. I just ask people to interpret it differently."

In the Seventies, Cesar lectured at l'Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts. He began a series of Masques by moulding his own bearded face in plastic and plaster. Many a French art student followed his lead. In 1975, he was approached by Georges He didn't have much truck with Cravenne to fashion the film award

year. In 1976, he was also made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Even wider recognition came when one of his "compressions" was pictured on a French stamp in 1984. The same year he paid an Hommage à Eiffel, using material recycled from the Eiffel Tower, and when his L'Homme du Futur was installed in the small Burgundy town of Clamecy, it caused as much uproar as Antony Gormley's Angel of the North has in Gateshead.

In 1995. César built a 500-tonne wall of piled-up cars for the Venice de Paume in Paris mounted a huge retrospective which ran for four months. Unfortunately, Marseilles César museum, even though he had presented his hometown with 186 of his works.

PIERRE PERRONE

César Baldaccini (César), sculptor: born Marseilles, France 1 January | sorbed into the mainstream of 1921; married 1960 Rosine official unveilings and functions and statuette named after him, which Suzanne Groult (one daughter);

Professor Susan Strange

SUSAN STRANGE was one of the world's leading scholars in international relations and the major European figure in its subdiscipline of international political economy (IPE), the study of the activities of states and transnational agents in their efforts to influence markets and political life.

For a generation she wrote prodigiously and lectured to audiences in dozens of countries, in every continent. She left behind a remarkable legacy that few can match. She was highly regarded by colleagues and students in Europe, North America, Japan and elsewhere, many of them occupying prominent positions in national and international professional and public life. Her impact is hard to overestimate.

Strange's most enduring achievement was to institutionalise teaching and research into IPE in Britain. Many British universities that now boast flourishing graduate pro-grammes in IPE have her to thank for establishing the first IPE graduate programme at the London School of Economics in 1984, against some robust opposition, it might be added. Ironically, the ability of the programme to attract high-fee-paying and high-quality foreign students silenced intellectual scepticism. In 1978 she was appointed Montague Burton Professor of International Relations at LSE.

She was also involved in the creation of several other graduate programmes, including one in Warwick University, and a generation of her former students holds teaching positions in all of them. Strange was one of the select few who enjoyed instant name recognition and easily filled large auditoriums. At the beginning of term her books are to be seen piled high in bookshops.

Susan Strange was born in 1923 and graduated with a First in Economics from LSE during the Second World War. She began a career in journalism, first at The Economist and then for The Observer, as the voungest White House correspondent of her time.

On her return to London in 1949, she also began to teach at University College, while she continued as The Observer's economics correspondent and an editorial writer. In 1965 she became a research fellow at the Royal Institute of International film festival, while, last year, the Jeu | Affairs at Chatham House and subsequently directed its acclaimed transnational relations project. While at Chatham House she wrote has so far balked at the cost of a Sterling and British Policy (1971), one of a number of significant projects during Andrew Shonfield's directorship of the institute.

Her intellectual contribution has been twofold and will endure, because its concerns have been abinternational relations thinking. The methodological issue of the failure of economics and international politics to engage with each other, as a matter of course and systematically, was addressed by Susan Strange in a justly famous paper entitled "International Politics and International Economics: a case of mutual neglect". If the issue now seems dated, it is precisely because a small band of scholars like her drew attention to its half-heartedness in

the first place. The other central aspect of her investigations was the impact of power politics on market outcomes and international organisations, apparently pursuing uncontroversial technical goals. In a celebrated piece, in 1982, she reflected unsparingly on the allegedly benign consequences of international regimes associated with them.

In her work on IPE, she was one of the few mainstream writers who remained robustly critical of what she considered selfishly irresponsible US policies, that she felt were inimical to the health of the world economy. She maintained that domestic politics and US constitutional arrangements were particularly to blame for this unhappy situation. She also dismissed as self-serving the widely propagated lament of its decline, suggesting, instead, that the US retained a huge advantage.

Strange was an early participant in the debates at Harvard, Prince ton, Columbia and LSE that turned into the tidal wave of IPE literature. This output has now become varied. often displays richness and taps into an important seam of policymaking issues, central to choices being made. Her book States and Markets (1988) was swiftly written and had its defects, but students bought it eagerly because the book provided an easily comprehensible unifying theme for the totality of IPE.

In 1986 she had already written Casino Capitalism, a prescient comment on the potential significance of increased international financial activity. Typically, she moved, on her official retirement, to a new career at the European University Institute in Florence in 1989. From there, she collaborated with John Stopford of the London Business School to co-author Rival States, Rival Firms: competition for world market shares (1991). It won the George Terry award for its contribution to management studies.

Susan Strange embodied a certain kind of quintessential Englishness that was striking to an outsider like myself, the first PhD student she supervised. She was an iconoclast and radical, a tradition that recalls a powerful theme in English culture and history. She was no revolutionary, but she questioned prevailing nostrums

with ill-concealed glee. And even when she missed the target she did so imaginatively. This was her great asset, to be interesting even when she was wrong, a welcome contrast to the solemnities of carefully footnoted pedantry, that often arouses a sinking feeling of dėja vu. She belonged to a pedigree that echoed the Manchester School liberals, believing in the pragmatic possibilities of human improvement, although she had fewer ideological Illusions. That she was the daughter of a renowned First World War flying ace somehow does not surprise.

Her life must also be judged remarkable for the many dimensions and qualities it combined. It remains a mystery how she managed to expand unforgiving time to be a mother to six children, a wife, write quite so much, lecture as well as travel widely. She married a fellow journalist at The Observer. Clifford Selly, in 1955, when she was already a career woman with two children. It was his sound judgement on the possibilities and limits of the real

world in which she trusted. The result was the outwardly contradictory synthesis in her work of imaginative analysis with caution in prescription. She had no time for any of the fashionable 1960s New Left Jacobinism, de rigueur for protest, in the period, against the ills of the world economy. Yet she held strong views against injustice. refusing to visit apartheid South Africa.

She was impatient of feminists carping about the unfairness of life, famously chiding them in her presidential address to the American International Studies Association in 1995; she was only the second non-American to hold the post. But she was also an exemplar of feminist success in the life that she led. Of men. she once said that they either belonged to cultures in which men liked women and enjoyed their company



International Relations at LSF

or they belonged to cultures that did not. She implied the need for a more complex standard for judging the first type in which men also seemed to evince greater interest in the female sexual persona.

Susan Strange was a goodhumoured and fun person, willing to listen and cross swords goodnaturedly with colleagues and students over a beer, never resorting to intellectual terrorism by wielding her authority. If she thought she had encountered an interesting idea she would yield with enthusiasm. What she did not suffer was self-pity. Perhaps, she was also a little too demanding of effort from those around her to fulfil their potential. There was not a lot in her own life that would have given her pause over such average

human infirmities in this regard. A fortnight before her death she published Mad Money, a sequel to Casino Capitalism. True to form, she had never actually quit, retiring a second time, at 70, to a professorship at Warwick University when she left Florence. She clearly did not relish what she regarded as pettyfogging bureaucratic proprieties. But in a final act of help to IPE scholarship in Britain she secured, by her presence, a major grant from the Economic and Social Research Council. for Warwick University to study globalisation.

GAUTAM SEN

Susan Strange, scholar of international relations: born 9 June 1923: Lecturer in International Relations, University College London 1949-64; Research Fellow, Royal Institute of International Affairs 1965-76; German Marshall Fund Fellow, London School of Economics 1976-78, Montague Burton Professor of International Relations 1978-88; Professor of International Relations, European University Institute in Florence 1989-93; Professor of International Relations, Warwick University 1993-98; married 1942 Denis Merritt (died 1993; one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1955). 1955 Clifford Selly (two sons, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

The Rev Dr John Brown



Brown, with his sons Gordon, centre, and Andrew, and a copy of his sermons A Time to Serve, a good preacher, thoroughly prepublished for his 80th birthday in 1994

JOHN BROWN was not simply the father of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was also a significant figure in the Church of Scotland and in the local communities in which he served throughout his life. Greatly loved, he was an able preacher and a superb pastor, distinguished by his selfless concern for those committed to his care - a concern that was important in shaping the future politics of Gordon Brown

Born in Fife in 1914, Brown went to Bell Baxter School in Cupar before going on to St Andrew's University. He was an excellent student, especially linguistically – and one of the most popular – gaining an MA in 1935, and graduating Bachelor of Divinity with first class honours in 1939. The university bestowed a doctorate of Divinity on him in 1979.

He was ordained and inducted at St Cuthbert's, Dunoon, in 1939, having first served as an assistant at St Katherine's, Newburgh, and then at St Mary's, Govan. He returned to Govan in 1943 for his second ministry, and remained there for 11 years. From 1954 to 1967 he was the minister at St Brycedale, Kirkcaldy, and served as Chaplain at Kirkcaldy High School. His last charge was St John's, Hamilton,

All his ministries were successful. He was disciplined, fond of people and had considerable charm and a lovely sense of humour. He was also Wattie Chung pared. I never met a better pastor.

Brown had an ethical, sensitive side to his nature, and was politically orientated - more people like him should enter politics. He was naturally friendly and dedicated to helping people; he and his wife were an extraordinary couple. I am not surprised they produced a son like Gordon.

He married Elizabeth Souter in 1947. They had a very happy marriage and a strong family life – he had a gift for making you feel at home. His three sons have all been successful: as well as Gordon, John, the eldest, is head of public relations for Glasgow City Council and the youngest, Andrew, is a Channel 4 television producer. They are a distinguished family but, more importantly, have remained "nice".

John Brown was a stalwart of the community, continuing to preach at local churches during his long retirement. He had a saintly quality, yet remained very human at the same time. He was involved in charity work and regularly visited patients at Insch Hospital nearby. In 1994, on his 80th birthday, Brown's three sons published a collection of his sermons, A Time To Serve.

MURDO EWEN MACDONALD

John Ebenezer Brown, minister of the church: born Largo, Fife 26 October 1914; ordained 1939; married 1947 Elizabeth Souter (three sons); died Insch, Aberdeenshire 7 December 1998.

Professor Eric Axelson

ary of Professor Eric Axelson [7 November] is a necessary tribute to a most able and distinguished scholar, writes Professor H. V. Livermore. It contains one inaccuracy. It was in Rhodesia that

ANTONIO DE Figueiredo's obitu- archivists were a rarity, and Axelson's accompanist was not a member of the PIDE (Portuguese state police), as de Figueiredo states. but a sergeant from the Rhodesian crime squad selected for this more agreeable service.

Axelson was his own archaeologist. On returning from Lisbon to Natal in December 1937, he was able to locate at once from accounts the spot where a beacon or padrão had tolomeu Dias's voyage which dis-

1488. It had stood at False Island or Kwaai Hoek, and had been broken. Part was underground and part had fallen into the sea. Axelson and his been erected to mark the limit of Bar-brother retrieved the fragments and had them pieced together, and it now

covered and rounded the Cape in forms part of the collection of the So ciedade de Geografia in Lisbon.

Incidentally, Bartolomeu Dias's statue now adorns South Africa House, and he is the only Portuguese to be so commemorated in London.

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SDAY REVIEW

Professor Tony Tanner

THE EARLY death at 63 of Tony Tanner has robbed King's College, Cam-The state of the s bridge, of one of its favoured sons, the university English faculty of its most perceptive reader, and lovers of English and American literature of their best guide.

Tony Tanner was brought up in south London. His father was a civil servant and his mother had trained as a teacher. Tanner's childhood was one limited by the Second World War and the auster ity that it brought in its wake. He attended Raynes Park County Grammar School and, after National Service, matriculated at Jesus College, Cambridge, He was one of an extraordinary cohort of undergraduates three others of whom Jeremy Prynne. John Rathmell and Tony Spearing) went on to hold senior positions in the English faculty. Their teachers included two great Shakespearean scholars, A.P. Rossiter and John Brockbank, both of whom were to be lasting influences on Tanner.

The degree he undertook at Cambridge was largely the product of a union of I.A. Richards's methods of practical criticism and F.R. Leavis's historical moralism. Both for very different reasons situated English literature as the central discipline for a modern university: a discipline focused on close reading of the canon - the body of English literature from Chaucer to Eliot which recorded Arnold's "best that had been thought and said"

To read English at Cambridge in the Finte Fifties was to have the last opportunity to read the whole canon of English literature. The texts had been agreed for 30 years, the secondary literature was still modest and while history, sociology and anthropology could make contributions to the "central discipline of the modern university", the questions posed by both theory and popular culture had yet to be articulated.

Tanner has a strong claim to be the best reader ever produced by this particular formation and this is the underlying force of all his work. But, if Tanner was a compulsive reader and writer, he was also one of the finest talkers in the world; his conversation rippled with quotations taken from the whole range of English literature woven n and out of an absolutely contempo-ary speech devoid of pretension or pomposity. To speak with him for an hour was to be treated, whether the topic be English football, faculty gossip or the government of the day, to a wonderful literary lesson.

As for many others growing up in the austerity of post-war Britain, America had always beckoned as the promised land and his two teenage passions of jazz and boxing suggested that all routes led across the Atlantic. After a brilliant Tripos, he won a Harkness Fellowship which took him to Berkeley, California, in 1958. Here he was to encounter another lasting influence in his teacher the role of evangelist for his adopted literature – advising, examining, lecturing Henry Nash Smith. He was also to meet wherever he could help American lithis first wife Marcia Albright and discover the full force of post-war

He returned to Cambridge in 1960 and to a Fellowship in King's, where the

American literature and culture.



Professor of English and American Literature at Cambridge from 1989

successor. To the then dominant Leavisite orthodoxy. King's was Cambridge's whore of Babylon: a haven of dubious sexuality and an enclave of metropolitan Bloomsbury. For Tanner, it was the last and most important part of his education. The Bloomsbury ideal of civilised behaviour stripped of its class hypocrisy became Tanner's settled faith.

It is difficult now to imagine a time when American literature was not taught in any English university. But to engage with American literature was

ry and provided a comprehensive overview of contemporary American fiction. Throughout this period Tanner moved back and forth across the Atlantic and constantly flirted with the idea of settling there permanently, not least to rescue his beautiful wife from the cold and inhospitable Cambridge Fens. But when he finally did go to Johns Hopkins University in 1976, he had missed his moment. Not only had the marriage ended but the instant he arrived in Baltimore he was plunged into a deep depression

To engage with American literature was novel, radical and daring. Throughout his career Tanner maintained the role of evangelist for his adopted literature

novel, radical and daring when Tony Tanner began his doctoral study of the Transcendentalists. So impressive was the thesis and the subsequent book The Reign of Wonder (1965) that Tanner was appointed to a post in the English faculty just before the book was published. Throughout his career he maintained erature on to the syllabus. Almost all those in Britain who have taken courses or degrees in American literature owe him a considerable debt.

His next book, City of Words (1971), great Dadie Rylands was looking for a moved from the 19th to the 20th centu-

and within six weeks had sent in an application for his old job at Cambridge. The fact that the notoriously ran-

corous Cambridge English Faculty immediately re-appointed him says much both for the sweetness and gentleness of his nature and of his pre-eminent position as a critic of American literature. King's too, despite the fact that they had appointed three Fellows to replace him,

Nadia Fusini, his new Italian wife with whom he enjoyed a very happy and highly unorthodox marriage, and his young colleagues, who were bringing the good news from Paris, stimulated him to new endeavours of decidedly more Cambridge 5 December 1998.

European flavour. The result was an ambitious attempt to combine close readings of Goethe, Rousseau and Flaubert with a more theoretical approach in Adultery and the Novel (1979). But this period came to an end when the faculty sacked a junior colleague of his at King's.

There was an exodus from the college of his English friends and colleagues. The depression that had first afflicted him in Baltimore returned in even more vicious form and his drinking, which had already seriously damaged his balance and left him unable to walk without a stick, now dominated his entire life. Even his closest friends despaired of his condition. But Nadia Fusini's refusal to accept such defeatism and a period of psychoanalysis bought a quite unexpected end to both his suicidal drinking and depression.

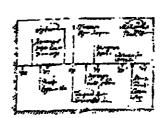
Tanner now embarked on what he called his "posthumous life", a time of great happiness and achievement. Happily installed in King's, appointed in 1989 to a personal professorship, active as a revered elder of the tribe in both college and faculty, he found himself returning to the Great Tradition with books on Jane Austen and Henry James (Henry James, 1985, and Jane Austen, 1986). These books were not addressed to the "research community" (although they could be read with profit by them: but to students and readers who wanted to understand better these classic texts.

His greatest triumphs were reserved for last. Venice Desired (1992) looked at that fabled city through its literary representations from Byron to Thomas Mann, from Ruskin to Proust. It might have seemed difficult to surpass this superb interweaving of literature and history but Tanner's next task was his magnum opus - to provide prefaces to every one of Shakespeare's plays in the new Everyman library. All of Tanner's life and education had prepared him for this task and the results are magnificent - both accessible and learned. It was a comfort to him in his final illness that what he felt to be his finest work would be collected together in a single edition.

In that illness his wit remained undiminished and his dislike of bores undimmed. After four weeks in hospital he died back in his beloved King's with his wife, Nadia, his stepdaughter Barbara and his friend Stephen Heath by his side. With Tanner's death a whole era for King's, which began before the First World War with the opening of the college to non-Etonians. comes to a close. For the English faculty his death leaves precious few with direct links back to the founding fathers.

COLIN MACCABE

Paul Antony Tanner, English scholar born Richmond, Surrey 18 March 1935: Fellow. King's College, Cambridge 1960-98: University Lecturer, mbridge University 1966-80, Reader in American Literature 1980-89, Professor of English and American Literature 1989-98; married first Marcia Albright (marriage dissolved), second 1979 Nadia Fusini; died



HISTORICAL NOTES

GERALD HOWSON

Lies and swindles in the Spanish Civil War

written during the past 63 years on the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, one might suppose that everything of importance that can be said about it has been said and that every lie has been exposed, illusion shattered and old controversy finally resolved. Not quite. I'm afraid.

Consider, for instance, the disagreements over why the Republicans were defeated. According to them and their supporters, they lost because they lacked armaments. Britain and France had sponsored Non-Intervention ostensibly to prevent the civil war from escalating into a larger war. In practice, the British had worked the embargoes in such a way as to hinder arms from reaching the Republicans while allowing Hitler and Mussolini to send enough to Franco to enable him to win. This explanation was widely accepted until about 30 years ago and was tacitly endorsed even by some in Franco's own entourage.

The official Franco line. however, was that all this was a Red lie, and during the 1960s and 1970s numerous books and articles, complete with figures said to be based on captured Republican documents, appeared in Spain to show that, from the Soviet Union and through arms dealers, the Reds had procured as much material as, or even more material than, only a small fraction of Murray, £25)

fered psychiatric injury as a

result of assisting the victims of a disaster caused by neg-

ligence for which the Chief

Constable was vicariously

liable were not entitled to

damages either because

their employment relation-

sbip gave rise to duties

which were not owed to

strangers, nor as rescuers.

Griffiths and Lord Goff dis-

senting) allowed the appeal of

the Chief Constable of South

Yorkshire against the decision

of the Court of Appeal that the

plaintiffs were entitled to dam-

ages in negligence for psychi-

atric injury suffered as a result

of the Hillsborough disaster.

members of the South York-

shire police force on duty at the

Hillsborough football stadium

or elsewhere on the day that 95

people were crushed to death

on the terraces, and many

more were injured, as a result

of the pressure of the crowds

Two of the plaintiffs had

helped to carry the dead and

dying; two had had tried un-

successfully to resuscitate those

who had been laid out on the

the hospital mortuary. As a re-

sult of their experiences, they

had suffered post-traumatic

stress disorder, which had af-

fected their ability to work and

Walker, Sheffield) for the plaintiffs.

THE ARRIVAL of a piano in

the new house prompted a

spot-check of the first new

book to cross the threshold:

Jonathon Green's Cossell

Although more expen-

Dictionary of Slang.

trying to get into the ground.

The plaintiffs were serving

The House of Lords (Lord

AFTER ALL that has been Franco had ever received what they needed even for a from Germany and Italy combined. Thus the Nationalists won not because they had more and better arms than the Reds but because they were braver. Some of the figures were later revealed as exaggerated and were toned down a bit, but many passed into history and reference books all over the world. where they continue to

misinform students. In Britain at this time, various politicians and historians, anxious to remove the tarnish of appeasement from the Conservative Party. were rehabilitating Chamberlain and the Guilty Men of Munich as clear-headed realists who, by conciliating the dictators while sacrificing Spain, Austria and even Czechoslovakia, bought us time in which to rearm for the world war in September 1939. Spain fitted into this reasoning because, since it was now known that the Republicans had procured plenty of armaments. Non-intervention could not have contributed to their defeat, so there was no point in waxing indignant

over that either. In a recent book, I have presented sufficient new documentary evidence to show that the figures on which this case stands are untrue, and that the effect of Non-Intervention on the Republicans was devastating and resulted in their obtaining

defensive, let alone an offensive war

This forced them to pay huge bribes to ministers of government, military chiefs. politicians and officials at every level in country after country in order to buy, at outrageous prices, arms that. as often as not, were never delivered or were found to be

If the conduct of the Poles. Czechs, Estonians, Romanians and Turks, to mention only a few of the governments involved, at times almost defies belief, it is the Soviets who, far from giving whole hearted support to the Spanish Republic as they and their apologists have always claimed, turn out to have been the biggest swindlers and thieves of the lot. Obviously, therefore, since this is a matter not of detail but of establishing fundamental historical justice, much that has been written about the Spanish Civil War will simply have to be rewritten.

The Russians could make a helpful start by opening all their Spanish Civil War archives, before someone tries to destroy them, or, as happened several times only a few years ago, offer them for sale on the black market.

Gerald Howson is the author of Arms for Spain: the untold story of the Spanish Civil War' (John

GAZETTE

Lothian and Borders, 57:

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

NNER: Professor Paul Antony ("Tony"), peacefully in his rooms in King's College, Cambridge, on Saturday 5 December. Dearly saturoay 5 Decamber: Dearly loved and greatly esteemed brother, uncle, husband, Fellow, and friend. Funeral, King's College Chapel, 1.15pm, Friday 11 December. Flowers and/or donations. Flowers to Co-operative Funeral Services, 34 James Street, Cambridge CB1 1HX. Donations to "Hospi-34 James Street, Cambridge CB1 1HX. Donations to "Hospi-tal at Home": (Arthur Rank House, Brooklands Avenue, 351 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 3DF)

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions Jarriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

sor, former MP, 56; Mr Beau Bridges, actor, 57; Miss Susan Bullock, soprano, 40; Sir John Burgh, former President, Trinity College, Oxford, 73; Dame Judi Dench, actress, 64; Mr Kirk Douglas, actor, 82: Mr Douglas Fairbanks Jnr, actor, 89; Miss Dawn Freedman. circuit judge, 56; Mr Geoffrey Hankins, former chairman, Fitch Lovell, 72; Mr Robert Hawke, former prime minister of Australia. 69; Professor Gabriel Horn. Master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 71; Mr Simon Kelner, Editor, The Independent, 41; Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, former president, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 72: Mr Ian McIntyre, writer and broadcaster, 67; Mr John Malkovich, actor, 45; Mr Donny Osmond, singer, 41:

singer, 48; Sir Nicholas Bon-

Miss Joan Armatrading,

Lord Rees QC, former MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, 72; Mr David Rider, disc jockey, 58; Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, operatic soprano, 83; Mr Roger Short, ambassador to Bulgaria, 54; Sir Peter Smithers, former MP. 85: Miss Rita Stephen, former trade union leader, 73: Miss Joanna Trollope, writer, 55.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Milton, poet, 1608; Baldassare Ferri, castrato, 1610; Edward, first Baron Thurlow, Lord Chancellor, 1731; Prince Peter Alexeyevich Kropotkin, Russian revolutionary and geographer, 1842; Joel Chandler Harris, writer, and creator of "Uncle Remus", 1848; Clarence Birdseye, inventor of the deep-freezing process. 1886; Hermione Ferdinanda Gingold, actress and entertainer, 1898; Richard Austen

Butler, Baron Butler of Saffron Walden, statesman, 1902.

Deaths: Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, 1165; Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, 1641: Robert Nanteuil, engraver, 1678; Ezra Cornell, financier and founder of Cornell University, 1874: Dame Edith Sitwell, writer and poet, 1964.

On this day: the first execution took place in Newgate Prison, London, 1783; in attempting to rescue the barque Mexico, 27 lifeboatmen from Southport and St Annes, Lancashire, were drowned, 1886; China declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy, 1941; the first episode of Coronation Street was televised, 1960; Lech Walesa was elected president of Poland, 1990.

Today is the Feast Day of St Budoc or Beuzec, St Gorgonia, St Leocadia, St Peter Fourier and The Seven Martyrs of Samosata.

Crime Concern, attends a

reception to launch the

LECTURES

National Gallery: David Jaffe, "Pictures from Christ Church (ii): Van Dyck, The Continence of Scipio", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Searight. "Merchants and Collectors in the Nehru Gallery (i)", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood. "Aesthetic Debates in 1930s England".

British Museum: Hilary Williams, "The Nativity and Religious Drawings: Mantegna to Rubens", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Christylle Phillips, Rococo Art in Gallery Four", 1pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1:

Professor Gerald Wakefield, "The Internet: copyright and intellectual property". Kufa Gallery, London W2: Ibrahim Mohammed, "The

7.15pm.

History of Damascus", their private lives. Andrew Collender QC and Patrick Limb (Hammand Suddards, Leeds) for the Chief Constable: Benet Hytner QC and Graham Platts (Russell Jones &

POLICE OFFICERS who suf- WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

Police officers were not

entitled to damages

Frost v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire and others House of Lords (Lord Broume-Wilkinson, Lord Griffiths, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord

Hoffmann) 3 December 1998

police were in a position analagous to employees of the Chief Constable, and that the employment relationship gave rise to duties which were not

The cases on rescuers, how-Lord Hoffmann said that the ever, were quite simply illusplaintiffs claimed that the trations of the application of general principles of foreseeability and causation to

9 DECEMBER 1998

witnessing or participating in the aftermath of accidents Stevn and Lord which caused death or injury to

owed to strangers.

The liability of an employer to his employees for negligence was not a separate tort with its own rules. It was an aspect of the general law of negligence. It would not be fair in principle to give police officers the right to a larger claim than others merely because the disaster was caused by the negligence of other policemen.

ground; another had assisted at The plaintiffs also claimed that they were not bystanders or spectators, but participants in the sense that they had actually done things to help, and that there was an analogy between their position and that of a rescuer who, on the basis of the decision in Chadwick v British Railways Board [1967] I WLR 912, was said to be treated as a primary victim.

particular facts. There was no logical reason

why the normal treatment of rescuers on the issues of foreseeability and causation should lead to the conclusion that, for the purposes of psychiatric injury, they should be given special treatment as primary victims when they were not within the range of foreseeable physical injury, and their psychiatric injury was caused by

others. Liability for psychiatric injury to rescuers who gave assistance at or after some disaster without coming within the range of foreseeable physical injury should not be extended. Once the concept of a rescuer as someone who put himself in physical danger was extended to include others who gave assistance, the line between them and bystanders became difficult to draw with

any precision. Furthermore, such an extension of liability would be unacceptable to the ordinary person because he would think unfair between one class of claimants and another, at best, not treating like cases alike, and at worst, favouring the less deserving against the more deserving. He would think it wrong that policemen, even as part of a general class of persons who had rendered assistance, should have the right to compensation for psychiatric injury out of public funds while the bereaved relatives were sent away with nothing.

KATE O'HANLON,

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow, presents the Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert Award at Buckingham Palace; as Patron and Trustee, attends receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; as Admiral, attends the Honourable

Company of Master Mariners' Lunch on board HQS Wellington to celebrate its 50th anniversary of being berthed at Temple Stairs, London WC2; and, as Senior Colonel, attends the Household Division Massed Bands Concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1. The Prince of Wales opens St Thomas's Hospital Cardiac Wing, London SE1; attends the Ulysses Trust Reception

at the Duke of York's Head-

quarters, London SW3; and.

Miss Isobel Poole, Sheriff of

Prince's Trust Conference at Lewisham College, London SE4. The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attends the National Olympic Committee Meeting at the Town Hall. Sheffield; opens Sheffield University's School of Nursing and Midwifery, St George's Hospital, Sheffield; opens Joint Replacement Instrumentation (Ceramics) Ltd, Leigh Street, Sheffield: and, as President of Patrons.

as President, attends a

Crime Concern Membership Scheme at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Gloucester, President, St Bartholomew's Hospital, accompanied by The **Duchess of Gloucester.** attends a concert in the Great Hall to mark the 875th anniversary of the foundation of the Priory and \$t Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1. The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief,

visits the 1st Battalion Devonshire and Dorset Regiment on Salisbury Plain; and, as Patron, the European Union Baroque Orchestra. attends a concert and dinner at the Banqueting House, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Words CHRISTOPHER

HAWTREE joanna, n.

sive than the recent OUP Green provides the more cogent summary (OUP volume, it contains 65,000 entries rather than 10,000. gives space to a random, As for joanna, which dates 1972 citation), and also infrom the mid-19th century, cludes the American term

ioanin' - an exchange of insults, not rhyming slang (or moanin': the etymology is uncertain but there is a dialect phrase, Joan Blunt.

Naturally, one soon strays further (I need a knuller). It is a marvel: the Sussex Stationers chain is doing it at half-price (£12.50), a snip the duty-free on a day-trip to Brighton.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Mick Hucknall, is your music just easy-listening for yuppies? And what's your favourite chat-up line?)



was born in Denton, Manchester in 1960. He recorded his first hit, "Holding Back the Years", with his punkinspired group, Frantic Elevators. They split up in 1983 and he went on to form Simply Red, whose best-selling singles have included "Money's Too Tight to Mention", "Fairground" and "If You Don't Know Me By Now". He has sold 40 million albums worldwide and his album Blue is double platinum.

Has Tony's government lived up to all your expectations? Guy Sounders, Lewisham, London Not all of them... probably no one could in such a short time. But the truth is Just William and Paddy are not the superior options. Tony Blair is one of the century's great leaders. and Bald Billy is a prat.

How do you respond to critics who say your music is easy-listening for yuppies? Darren Long, Epping — PS. I'm a great fan and I'm not a yappie!

What do women find attractive about you? And what's your favourite chat-up line? Lena Taylor, Dublin

Ha! It mystifies me but everyone is attractive to at least someone. My chat-up line? I don't have a list of questions. It just depends on the

Why have you never got married and would you like to have children? Gillian Mann, Epsom

I'm only now becoming mature enough to desire it, and yes, I am now ready to make some babies.

If you could date an Ali Saint, which one would it be? Pete Lennon, Bayswater, London They have a very cute assistant... very cute.

How did you become friends with Robert De Niro? Emily Downs, East Dulwich

We met in Milano several years ago and then again in New York. Along with Jack [Nicholson] and Sean Penn and Mr Brando, he is "de

Was it a culture shock living in

Hulme, Manchester and then jetting around the world? How do you deal with the contrasts of where you grew up and how you live now? Lesley Meade, Stockport Totally. It took me years to learn to

deal with the realities of fame and

success. It's hard work sometimes but clearly the pluses outweigh the

In what way could you describe yourself as a typical only child? Anna Hopkins, Huntingdon I couldn't because I'm an only child from a single-parent family. Double

In one interview, you said you felt like an outsider because your mother left you at an early age and you were seen as "the odd kid with red bair". Have you reconciled either of these two things? Julia Ramsay, Chelmsford

No, actually I haven't and whenever I read some horrible comment about me or my hair, for example, I realise I never will

Do you think white people really can sing soul?

Do you think black people really can

Spagnetti al pomodoro e basilico. Predictable but eternally classic.

I used to see you DJing at Manchester Poly - would you like to try your hand at it again? Paul Ellis, Whalley

Monchester I still do from time to time. I have great memories of my time at Manchester Poly. I still enjoy DJing from time to time.

How many houses do you own and where are they? Robert May, Chelmsford I have a house just outside London

and an apartment in Milano. What do you think is the worst aspect of working in the music

Mark Chisholm, Shepherd's Bush,

Feeling like a supermarket item. Seeing new fads becoming special

Would you rather be Marvin Gaye Al Green or Aretha Franklin? Nick Johnston, Luton I am their illegitimate ménage i trois son!

You claim to be a Mancunian so how can you justify supporting Man United?

Brendan Smyth, Wythenshawe Manchester Ha Ha! How can you claim to be a Mancunian from Wivvy? Man City are now a registered charity. It's a crying shame... I miss the

Your label Blood and Fire is such a success - why do you think people are still interested in regene from the late Seventies? Jessica Webb, Truro, Cornwall It truly was the golden era for Jamaican music, a bit like their Swinging Sixties if you like except they were digging the Old

What's your favourite reggae album?

Rob Turner. Redditch One of these four. Social Living. Burning Spear, Two Sevens Clash Culture; Under Heavy Manners, Prince Far I: Heart of the Congos, The Congos.

Testament, Marcus Garvey and

Haile Selassie.

Do you ever regret having a ruby put in your tooth? Daisy O'Sullivan. Banbury No I love it, I'm very happy with it

Jarvis Cocker famously shunned New Labour's courtship – how come you didn't? James Lee, Islington, London Because I don't need to butt-lick the trendy, pseudo-hip, self-absorbed elements of the popular music and fashion press.

How do you think you will celebrate the Millennium? Chris Walsh, Tenbu With my dearest friends

I've got an original copy of your single "Holding Back the Years" by Frantic Elevators. Is it worth anything? Francis Ross. Derby

Who would you like to find in your Christmas stocking morning? Carol Macleod, West Lothian,

Scotland My future wife!

Live at the Lyceum', a compilation of Simply Red's recent live concerts will be broadcast on BBC1, 12 December at 11.55pm

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: PENELOPE LEACH, FOLLOWED BY RICHARD DAWKINS, EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST

Send questions for the child psychologist Penelope Leach, or Richard Dawkins, to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail yourquestions@independent.co.uk) by noon on Friday, 11 December



appreciate classical music? Offensive, isn't it? Well, I'm offended too. This century has been unique in the story of mankind in that we have witnessed the marriage of cultures, mainly Western and African. I am one of this century's children. Musical recording history is full of multi-racial collaborations and it is this cross-pollination that has created the magic of Ellington, Sinatra and the Beatles. I am merely a part of that tradition. It is perhaps the most "soulful" strength of living in a multiracial society. Please, for the sake of the next century, let's rid ourselves of these racist shackles, and move positively forward.

Do you harbour any desires to act? Christina Burrell, Sussex I'd like to try at least once, because I'm an addictive mimic and I'm always impersonating people, but I have friends who are very great actors... that makes me think twice.

I've heard you're keen on Italian food - what's your favourite Ital-

TM NOT big on prayer but I

make an exception when it

comes to public transport.

I am not asking for a safe

journey; even God cannot

control molecules of frost

on the rail line or airline

runway fatigue. No, I am

praying that no one talks

wonder if I am so vain as

to think that a complete

stranger would want to

talk to me. But vanity has

people will talk to anyone

and, in my case, it is never

Prayer being unreliable,

I have developed back-up

inducing silence in anyone

bar psychotic or religious

fanatics. No eye contact is

allowed. So when you get

circumstances should you

even glance at the person

beside you. If they say "Hello", mumble and start

to read. Anything will do,

though aeroplane vomit-

bit tedious.

bag instructions can get a

It is crucial that you do

not react to anything your

neighbour does. If they ask

for a bit of your newspaper,

hand it over without eye

phone, ignore it. If they

window. I am so religious

about this rule that once,

on the last train home. I

had left the carriage

except for me and my

realised that everyone else

sing, stare out of the

contact. If they talk on the

to your seat, under no

just a chat. They want to

tell me everything.

behaviours aimed at

nothing to do with it. Some

to me. Now you may

offers... oh well, I guess it's the na-

Who would you most like to duet Jay Brand, Horsham Duets are not easy. The soul singer Gladys Knight would be nice.

What are the last three records you bought? Roddy Maine, Edinburgh Beach Boys box set, Latiryn Hill and Stardust - "Music Sounds Better

Who or what has given you the greatest pleasure over the last A few hundred quid, apparently. three months?

their goals in life. Writing some of the best songs of my career - this is

Who would you most like to have dinner with tonight? And where would you most like to go? Laura McEwen, St Neots Hillary Clinton. The Oval Office.

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

Giving Christmas presents can be stressful. But receiving them is even worse. By **Hester Lacey**

Great! Another pair of socks...

DON'T CHRISTMAS presents look beautiful as they glitter under the tree, all wrapped in shining paper and decorated with ribbons and tinsel? And sadly, that elegant packaging may be the most alluring thing about the gift itself. How often those enticing boxes turn out to contain a piece of useless and completely inappropriate old rubbish: for this is the season when novelty kitchen accoutrements. embossed-leather manicure sets, fluffy-animal slippers and boxes of sculpted nuggets of marzipan start to suddenly appear, cunningly disguised in smart wrappings and seasonal bows.

Last week, we heard how Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, had surveyed Brent Cross Shopping Centre and found that trudging round the shops can raise stress levels equal to those experienced by fighter pilots. Now William Doherty, professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota, is going as far as to say that it's the actual giving of gifts which is the most nerve-wrackof £42 per gift, more than the French or the Americans. And yet despite all the effort, agonising and spending, it's still so easy to get it wrong.

Take, for example, Maria, who hinted for weeks about a beautiful, soft, grey cashmere sweater that she had fallen in



ing part of the entire season. A present says what you think of a person – get it right. The British spend an average

love with. Under the tree, a right size, shape and squashiness. On Christmas morning, as she tore away the paper, she could barely keep her countenance: inside were a dozen tea towels. This story gets worse. The giver was her husband.

Or Sara, who has amassed package duly appeared of the a near-professional collection of cake tins, pie dishes, pizza cutters and expensive Le Creuset enamelware of all shapes and sizes from her parents-in-law. This year, she says grimly, she is expecting the famous Deliaendorsed omelette pan, "But

it's no good. All the kitchen stuff present you don't like," says Dr in the world isn't going to turn me into her. It's simply a case of can't cook, won't cook. There's no malice involved on their part, but they just can't imagine a young woman who isn't a whizz in the kitchen and the more they pile me up with non-stick bakeware, the less I feel like cooking anything at

Esther still remembers her disappointment when, aged about 10, she asked her grandmother for a copy of The Hobbit. "My grandma was in one of those book clubs that produces identically-bound copies of various classics. She mistook which book I was pointing to and I unwrapped a copy of The Complete Poems of Byron, Shelley and Keats, lovingly inscribed with my name and a message so it couldn't go back. No dragons, no dwarves, no hobbits. I still have the damn book on my shelf, and I've never read it.

Being landed with unwanted tea towels, omelette pans and books of classical poetry doesn't simply mean the aggravation of having to take them back (or having to dump them on the doorstep of the local charity shop). Research into the psychology of giving suggests that inappropriate gifts can sometimes betray what is a hopelessly dysfunctional relationship. "It's awful when you get a

Carol Burgoyne, a lecturer in psychology at Exeter University. "This isn't just a response to a commodity you don't like, because a gift is more than that -you are giving a part of yourself to the other person." It is worse, she says, if the

person handing out the festive tat is close to you. "If it is someone who should know you and your tastes quite intimately, that can leave a very negative feeling. It suggests that they haven't taken care over their choice, or that they are misguided about what kind of person you are." And, she further warns.

there is a complex gift-ranking system to complicate matters further. Partners or parents and children expect, not to put too fine a point on it, a better present than those given to more distant recipients, which probably means one that cost more. "To some, the cost of the gift can be a signal of how much the giver cares," warns Dr Burgoyne.

Sadly, most people will be receiving a few duds this year (and, indeed, giving them). For those who can't face the returns queue, a recent American Express survey found that 28 per cent of cardholders had found a practical and thrifty way of resolving the problem: simply rewrapping the white elephant and giving it away to



20: STRANGERS WHO WANT TO TALK BY ANN TRENEMAN

No chat please, we're British Gary Doak

neighbour who, it transpired, had thrown up. Still, at least we didn't have to chat about it first.

Some people are more persistent than others. Women in headscarves are prone to chat. Ditto people travelling in a group choir members, football fans, hen-night types. Sometimes you simply have to move. In the case of genuine psychotics, though, moving doesn't work: they follow you. The last one that sat beside me babbled the whole way. head jerking this way and that, with occasional attempts to set me and himself on fire. Eye contact was the least of my problems.

All this comes to mind because the other day I

broke my own rule and paid the price. I was sprinting down a platform when I realised I didn't know where the train was going. I then made a fatal error. I initiated contact by shouting, "Where is this train going?" at a man running in front of me. "London," he shouted back. That is all it took. On board, we should have become strangers

again. But no. He wanted to talk. He told me about train times, the platform, his connecting train before going into his personal train history. He popped his briefcase, got the timetable out and started to read it to me. Then he decided I needed his help to buy a ticket. "You can buy one from the conductor," he said. He repeated this; then I made my second error. I replied. I said I thought I would wait for a bit. He grimaced. He disagreed. I demurred. The train started to move. "You can go and see the conductor now!" he said.

It was time to get serious. I opened my paper and began to practise my ritual avoidance technique. Soon, I noticed that the man had started to read the timetable to another man sitting across the aisle. Both seemed pleased, and were soon chatting away about timetables they had known and loved. Isn't it great when they find each other?

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London Sparks

DAY REVIEW

Count Alexander von Beregshasy He is wearing The Count Alexander Diamond to 713-carat cubic zirconia, set in white gold with platinum plating - the largest zirconia in the world, he says). I want to bring out the peacock in every gentleman,' he says



Pandora Gorey - the Count's lady in waiting Her jewels are from a new parure of fantasy jewels, made to Pandora's own design. The idea is based on spiders crawling around on dew-drenched grass in the morning mist. I love it, I feel as if I am walking on air'



Ollvia Barnard-Firth - costume designer Olivia is wearing the replica in jewels and clothing reputed to have been bought for Marie Antoinette just before she was beheaded. Consequently she never actually wore the crown. Beauty is what tonight is all about. Beauty brings such joy and happiness into lives, everyone should try to be beautiful every day. I live in the country and own horses, ducks and chickens. Even when I muck out the chickens I am glamorous, she says. Photographs: Suzu del Campo / Interviews: Amy Jones





Ursula Adam – historical dancer The jewels are a replica of a parure in pink topaz and diamond that was worn by Katherine The Great. Tonight I feel like an aristocrat. I am 18th century. We all like a little fantasy and this is the perfect occasion to indulge,' she says



Karen Wright – theatrical costumier Her jewels are from the Katherine The Great parure. She is wearing her own dress, which took a week to make. I feel like Katherine the Great. This is my first year at this occasion although I have attended other soirces at Count Alexander's,' she says



Sandy - one of the Count's dearest friends The earrings are part of a collection from Empress Josephine the necklace is from the Countess of Paris collection. You feel so good walking down the stairway and through the Ritz into the Marie Antoinette suite. It is true, I do feel like a princess'

Ine Count of many crystals

On St Nicholas's Day, Count Alexander von Beregshasy invited his friends to wear his jewels at the Ritz. By John Windsor

shasy was wearing a replica of the Hope diamond, a fullbreeches, black hussar boots with spurs and two rings on each hand.

"I always wear my jewels," he said. So will we all, if he realises his dream. Women will don diamond tiaras, dazzling, bodicesmothering necklaces, stomachers, bracelets, brooches and chandelier ear-

rings dripping with diamonds. Replica diamonds, that is. The count makes and sells the world's biggest replica rocks including, most recently, the crown jewels of France, Austria and Russia, which he has been privileged to hold in his cotton-gloved hands. He did not dare to touch the Hope diamond in the Smith-sonian Institution in Washington - because of its deadly reputation. He studied it from a distance of a few inches.

His shop, just opened, is a tiny cubicle, like a jewel box, in The Mall, the antique arcade in Islington, north London. It glitters with a 4ft-wide Austrian Maria Theresa crystal chandelier with 25 candle bulbs, surplus from Buckingham Palace, dangling Rococo angels, and a life-size gold angel holding a crown, suspended from a gold rose garland entwined with fairy lights.

He has made 16 life-size, lifelike glass fibre mannequins, including Marie Antoinette's lady-in-waiting, with a galleon hairstyle, which is in his shop. He calls them his "perfect people". In his window is a mannequin of Faye Dunaway, star of Michael Winner's film, The Wicked Lady, wearing a ruby-studded velvet gown by the houte couture period dressmaker Olivia Barnard-Firth - who makes the count's own outfits - and his ruby-and-diamond winter jewel collection. A sign above the mannequin says: "A wicked lady always gets what she wants for Christmas."

The Count surrounds himself with wicked ladies – well, playfully wicked ones at least - notably at the Ritz, where they gather at his dinner parties resplendent in extravaganza celebrated St Nicholas's of the Palace of Versailles.

ount Alexander von Bereg- Day, on Sunday. "I want to bring some this dull city of ours," he says. "I'm not from length, three-tiered cape, a this century, I'm from the 18th century, and silk velvet ruffed shirt, a this is my mission in this life. It's just not pair of black riding- true that you can have too much of a good

thing. My aim is to gild the lily.

"Just as Diana, Princess of Wales wanted to be Queen of Hearts, I want to be Queen of Diamonds. I want to make apparently has a "vulgar glitter". dreams come true."

His great-grandmother was a Hohenzollern: his grandmother designed costumes for the opera in Linz, Austria; and his mother, the Baroness von Beregshasy, guided him as a child through the splendours of the palaces and castles of central Europe.

'I want to be Queen of Diamonds, I want to make dreams come true'

"For as long as I can remember," he says, "I have been attracted to anything that glitters and sparkles."

The family title was a reward for being the only Austro-Hungarian family, apart from Count Dracula's, to take up arms against the Turks in the 15th century. The count wears his family's gold signet ring, and take care of them. Their natural enedating back to 1700, which is engraved with a horseman raising a sword upon which a Turk's head is impaled, while the horse tramples the decapitated foe.

A word of warning: never say "jewellery" within his earshot. "Such a cheap and common word," he says. "You would never hear the Queen referring to the Crown Jewels as jewellery. They are jewels."

Even replica jewels have their pride, it seems, and even royalty has been proud to wear replica jewellery. Marie Antoinette, for instance, sometimes wore necklaces made from the finest cut crystal and backed with gold foil. Nobody could tell the long gowns and the complete parares he difference - especially below those blazing, has made for them. The last such 100-candle chandeliers in the state rooms

Count Alexander uses crystal of the sparkle, glamour, opulence, decadence, to same highest quality - Austrian mountain crystal that is ground to a paste, laced with lead then machine-cut, and hand-cut Russian zirconia - a diamond-like rock crystal that can be distinguished from the real thing only under laser light. The count backs the stones with 24-carat antique gold - he eschews modern gold because it

His tour de force is Marie Antoinette's necklace, made from 500 rose-cut Austrian crystals and comprising two pieces - a collar tied with a satin ribbon, and broad, sumptuous swags with tassels, suspended from the shoulders. He discovered an accurate design for it in a Paris flea-market. His replica was worn for the first time at the Ritz. (See main picture, above.)

The count's private clients include ageing members of the nobility who arrive at his shop carrying plastic supermarket bags, from which they gingerly extract 19thcentury jewel boxes containing tiaras last worn at their weddings or the Queen's coronation. They have had to pay extra insurance in order to take them out of their bank vaults for a day, so that the count can measure them to make a replica.

"Jewels are meant to be worn," he says. "But what's the point of buying a tiara from Cartier if you are constantly afraid of being mugged or even killed for it?"

Always tell people that your jewels are not real, he advises - it's safer that way mies are perfume and hairspray, which cling like a yellow glue to the stones, attracting grime and causing them to disintegrate. Even real diamonds hate sticky cosmetic sprays. His advice: spray on the perfume, wait 10 minutes - then put on the jewels and step out into the bright lights.

Prices: from £50 for a pair of Austrian crystal stud earrings, to £1,350 for an Austrian crystal tiara or £5,000 for a Russian zirconia necklace. Each jewel is signed and is in a limited edition of 100. They come in splendid boxes.

Count Alexander Beregshasy, 14 The Mall Antique Arcade, 359 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 (0171-354 0059). The nearest underground station is Angel



The large brooch is a replica of the order of the garter. The smaller ruby brooch is a replica of the order of St John from Austria. The final piece is a replica from Katherine the Great. To be able to wear and see these jewels is a magnificent honour,' he says

YOUNG CATWALK PHOTOGRAPHER 1998 The winner is...

CONGRATULATIONS TO photography student Amanda Cannon, the winner of The Independent and Clothes Show Live's Young Catwalk Photographer of the Year award. The brief was to capture "the heart of fashion" at the British Heart Foundation fashion show, Amanda wins an Olympus OM 2000 camera plus kit, and work experience with *The Independent's* catwalk photographer during London Fashion Week in February 1999. Two runners-up, Anna Thompson and Calim Renton, both receive an Olympus IS-10 camera plus kit.



The future of French music, Doc Gyneco, above. Below, former football club owner, politician, ex-con and now singer, Bernard Tapie

The new Serge Gainsbourg

He's rude, cool, sardonic. He's huge in France, dodgy mates notwithstanding. By Philip Sweeney

he most striking poster in the Paris Metro last week was a very noir photographic study of a leather-hooded execuered pig's head beside a tall guillotine. Three thousand of these charmers are currently vying with Kylie Minogue en deshabille for the attention of commuters as Virgin Records France launches the latest album by Doc Gyneco, a 24-year-old "anti-rappeur" who may just represent the future of French pop music as we know it.

Since Doc Gyneco's debut record appeared two years ago (it's since sold 800,000 copies), increasing critical respect has been paid to his sardonic and catchy performances. The phrase "a new Serge Gainsbourg" is gaining currency. And with justification, as Doc Gyneco shares many characteristics with the late roue and pop maestro. Above all, a talent for selfpublicity. A single from the album, "C'est Beau La Vie", has been in the to have just left for a holiday in Brazil French Top 10 for the past month, and Gyneco and its co-author - the single is a duet - have spent half the autumn splashed across front pages, from Le Nouvel Observateur to Bravo Girl!.

The second voice on "C'est Beau La Vie" is that of Bernard Tapie, former of Marseilles football club and cabinet minister, recently jailed for corruption, tioner holding up a sev- released and bankrupted. Reduced to a solitary Left Bank town house and his last BMW, Tapie has been recycling himself as an actor, in Claude Lelouch's Hommes, Femmes, Mode d'Emploi, and now as a singer. His outing with Doc Gyneco has roughly the effect of a Robert Maxwell, say, teaming up with Goldie, as the odd couple swap musical badinage on the ironies of life, wherein all important matters - football, rap, politics - are controlled, toujours, by gangsters.

Making contact with Bruno Beausir, as Doc Gyneco was christened, is not easy, involving many calls to despairing Virgin Records press officers and talk of possible rendezvous at suburban football matches. When I arrived at Virgin's 17th-century HQ in the to have just left for a holiday in Brazil. Chapelle, an area where "the pigeons Instead, I talked to Virgin's artistic director, Thierry Planelle, a former programmer with Radio Nova, the Paris youth station that introduced rap and council block, Bruno Beausir was hip hop to France in the mid-Eighties. brought up by a Guadeloupean social



"Bruno gave me a demo cassette. and he told me his phone number was in one of the lyrics," said Planelle. "I was immediately struck by the quality of the texts, the musicality, the fact that his subject matter was totally different from the usual French rapper stuff. The phone line turned out to have been disconnected, though."

Gyneco's home territory is the poor, outer edge of the 18th arrondissement near the Porte de la die in the gutter from eating addicts' vomit", to quote the Doc's eulogy. Here, in a flat on the 23rd floor of a

worker mother and a semi-absentee fous de la Nation Zoulou," he sings, father. Bertrand, the barman in the café Le Celtic, remembers Beausir as a shy, well-behaved little boy going to the local school. Now, he observes, he drives a Mercedes 300 and has bought Johnny Halliday's old country house.

A 15-minute train ride further

north lies the rough banlieue of Sarcelles, synonymous with the outer city decay and battles between police and disaffected multi-racial youth chronicled in the 1995 rap film, La Haine. In a brand-new office block beside the police station, complete with bank-style security door, is based Secteur A, the most successful of the new hip hop production houses that have made French rap the most commercially successful outside the US. Secteur A made its name with some of the hardest of the new rap acts, notably Ministère AMER, whose anti-police lyrics on the album 95200 (the Sarcelles postcode) resulted in a prosecution for criminal incitement. Doc Gyneco was, and still is, a ing film. As for Bruno Beausir, whose member of this collective, but his work new album was launched as one of the takes a different and refreshing dir- events of the year - he can go off to

ection, looking as much to French popular song as America for models. "Je me moque du hip hop; je me sandwiches for three generations".

as usual, semi-provocatively. "Classez moi dans la variet" (I couldn't care less about hip-hop or the Zulu Nation... Class me under "pop").

Thus, Doc Gyneco sings of his quartier, his social scene and his love of sex. Unjustly attacked for misogyny, he is in fact capable of encapsulating complex poetic emotion into the crude language of a ghetto love song such as "Ma Salope à Moi" - "My Slut"

A clever, punning lyricist, he also has a Gainsbourgian ear for a borpotential ethical minefield. rowed melody, and a love of slang, above all the back-to-front verion of the banlieues. Doc Gyneco's popular success is such that words like meuf (for femme, woman) are becoming common in middle-class French discourse, and the rappers are having to come up with more obscure new terms, indeed. rap has become so pervasive that Catherine Deneuve. Dior-clad icon of the arts aristocracy, is rumoured to be preparing a rap duet for a forthcom-Brazil with enough in the bank from the first one to keep him in "kebab

Trust me, this is a great book

...or not. It depends on who your friends are, argues Michael Glover

FOUR WISE men will shortly be gathering in an upper room close to Charing Cross Station to discuss a subject dear to the hearts of many reckless book purchasers at this time of year, with a view to hosting a Royal Arts Society debate next month. Their subject? The state of book reviewing, and whether we are wise to heed the words of those near-impecunious rogues whose names return again and again to our books pages.

Anthony Burgess, a great filler of books pages himself, had very strong opinions on the matter when I spoke to him shortly before his death. "They're such cheats!" he said. I asked him how he did it. He was frank with me. I read the book and then I write about it, immediately, he told me. No time for rumination, or note taking, or staring meaningfully into the middle distance - or any of that old rubbish. He just wrote it, as quickly as possible, before he forgot what was in the book. And before he had to get on to the next review – which, such were the demands made upon his time by literary editors, would probably be a bit

later that same afternoon. One of the people who will be in that upstairs room near to the skies in print. Charing Cross will be Tony Curtis, a former books editor of the Financial Times. Curtis once made the whole thing sound terribly easy: "the world of a review is to mediate between the book and the reader." The truth of the matter is that the commissioning, editing, writing and policing of book reviews is one of the most treacherously difficult jobs around; a

Consider this test case: if you were an untested books editor, who would you consider approaching to review a major political biography? An academic? Another political biographer? A novelist or poet who also happens to write reviews as a way of supplementing a meagre income? The academic, though knowledgeable, may write in the area himself and have scores to settle. He may of it, alas, may have been writ also be incapable of writing ten by our best friends. journalism. The political biographer may be too narrow a specialist. He may also turn up his nose at the magnificent tective barricade.



Anthony Burgess

cheque. The novelist may be too

much of a generalist. Virginia Woolf, who wrote regularly for The Manchester Guardian early this century, complained that the literary editor expected instant knowledge from her: "You will be surprised to learn," she once wrote to a friend, "that I am an authority on Spain - but there it is." The paper had just sent her some books on the subject.

Woolf felt uneasy about writing on a topic about which she had limited knowledge; but the Bloomsbury group in general had no compunction about the more blatant cheating involved in praising each other's books

Some of the worst kind of cheating is in poetry reviewing, in which most people are some body's friend, and the book under review may have been written by next year's TS Eliot Prize judge. Most poetry reviewing is craven, muted, and full of covertly sycophantic weaselry - the sort of thing Will Self alluded to in his Booker Prize outburst about the "nepotism of niceness". Because reputation is all, and money nothing, poets are too often unwilling to hit out without neryous glances over the shoulder.

Once upon a time, it was a tragic thing to be flayed in pub lic. Now, amongst many poets, it's just a symptom of too much over-vigorous back-scratching. The truth is that an awful lot of crap is written and published in the name of poetry, and some

Burgess the reviewer, however, used language as a battering ram, not as a self-pro-

I have heard the future

THERE WERE two Elgar symphonies - now there are three. Such has been the impact of Anthony Payne's masterly elaboration of the sketches for the third in the few short months since it was premiered. That Sir Colin Davis and the moments of the symphony. London Symphony Orchestra chose to begin their current Elgar series with it gives you some measure of the esteem in which it is already held. It has been accepted. Not. I hasten to add, as Elgar's Third Symphony but, rather, as prophecy, as conjecture, but with heart and soul as well as scholarship. It's the nearest thing we have to closure for Elgar the symphonist. And it's not a happy ending. His loss of faith is echoed and re-echoed in the bell-like tolling of the tam-tam. Time marches on, conflict passes, taking with it "half the

CLASSICAL LSO/COLIN DAVIS ELGAR SERIES BARBICAN

Payne's daring allusion to "The Wagon Passes" from Elgar's roughly contemporary Nursery Suite is a grim, startling metaphor for lost innocence.

And all the more startling for the chivalric swagger that Sir Colin brought to the main body of the outer movements. It has to be said that the sheer heft of the London Symphony over that of the BBC Symphony, who originated the piece, threw the sonority of those outer movements into far more dramatic relief. This was altogether riper and bigger-boned Elgar than the other Davis seed of Europe" in the dying Andrew - and the BBC or-

chestra had revealed to us. Sir Colin positively rode the sound into futures unknown. For the finale, Payne found a cathartic climax where Andrew Davis found only a crisis. LONDON

> now in place for the "new" symphony with disparities in interpretation already broadening our perception of the music, just as it has done for the Violin and Cello Concertos over the years. As if to endorse that view, while simultaneously celebrating the "internationalism" of Elgar's music, Davis and LSO brought on board a Japanese violinist and Austrian cellist. Kyoto Takezawa played the Violin Concerto with plenty of objective fire. But the more discursive, the more introspective the piece became, the more of an outsider she seemed. The notes were most-

ly there, but not the reasons for

So a performing tradition is

them. Or rather, not Elgar's reasons. That was also true of Heinrich Schiff who came at the Cello Concerto from the Austro-German side of Elgar's nature. The slightly portentous presentation of the first subject. the abundance of strenuous accenting and earnest rhetoric - this was Elgar a very long way from home, though not in the

least homesick. Back, though, to the dying days of Edwardian England. The second movement of the Second Symphony rolled out like a great cortege, carrying with it a nation's collective grief. Shelley's "spirit of delight" duly succumbed to the spirit of regret - a portent of things to come - but through the sinew and opulence of the LSO sound and Davis's noble allargandos, Elgar had come home again.

EDWARD SECKERSON

Miles ahead, years later

WHEN GIL Evans and Miles Davis set out to create an instrumental jazz version of George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, they were still aglow with the warm critical response to Miles Ahead, the orchestral suite with which they realised the promise inherent in their brief initial collaboration in the late Forties. In Gershwin's folk opera they found material destined to exalt composer,

arranger and soloist alike. In 1958 Davis was at his early peak, his playing marked by a beauty of tone and a perfection of line which brought him the affection of an audience far beyond the regular jazz constituency. His use of a flugelhorn in place of his usual trumpet for most of Porgy and Bess merely enhanced the almost unbearable loveliness of his sound, while Evans' orchestrations, which could be

JAZZ PORGY AND BESS BARBICAN LONDON

lean and unsentimental or warmly seductive, provided a matchless setting.

For many years, however, this was destined to be music with no life outside the recording studio. Only on a handful of occasions were Davis and Evans provided with sufficient funds to perform their collaborations in concert. By the time the value of their music became clear even to the most dim-witted promoter, both men had moved on, so the initiative shown by Scott Stroman and the jazz orchestra of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in searching out Evans' elusive manuscripts and

preparing them for concert

kinds of stirred emotion. If it is asking a great deal of

student musicians to live up to such a legacy, then their pleasure in the privilege of inhabiting the structures of this music was easy to appreciate. But can its spirit be inhabited by any group of musicians not under the direct control of Gil Evans? This is the sort of question confronting all those who wish to make a living repertoire out of the music of the great

iazz composers of the past. So faithfully and sensitively did the orchestra perform the suite, all the way from the fevered fanfare of "Buzzard Song" to the jaunty farewell of "There's a Boat That's Leaving Soon For New York", that the highest possible compliment would be to say that there were moments when the music seemed to be playing itself, re-

performances results in many animated once more by Evans' unique spirit. All the trademarks of colour and texture were given full value: the weightless woodwind combinations, the calm French horns, the quick stabs of muted brass, the daring use of unison tuba and double bass as a combined lead voice.

And in the impossible role of Davis himself, the veteran American trumpeter Randy Brecker gave a skilled and generous interpretation -a little more prone to displays of virtuosity and self-conscious bluesiness than Davis himself, perhaps, but if this music were about exact imitation then it would have no value. A labour of love then, and received in kind.

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

RICHARD WILLIAMS

PETER CONCHIE ON TV



The director of last night's 'Modern Times' clearly wanted to be Ken Loach

PAGE 18



Rod Stewart, cool? Well, almost...

I LAST saw Rod in the late Seventies, when I was 13 and he was at his most decadently naff. Perma-tanned, clad in black satin and leopard skin, he belted out hits from the Do You Think I'm Sexy? album, waggling his bony bum to the audience. Even at that tender age, I knew never to mention that night I spent with Rod to new friends, vowing to take my dark

secret to the grave. And then, all of a sudden, Rod releases When We Were The New Boys, a covers album of quite cool tracks, and the hitherto savage music press wants to be best mates with him. In fact, Rod's recuperation He didn't let them down.

into the ranks of the mentionable began a while back, when he made the astute move of covering Tom Waits songs rather than Tom Jones numbers. The old rocker we'd all thought would turn into Peter Stringfellow but with songs, surprised us by turning instead into a respectable option for a night out.

Rod chose Glasgow to begin this comeback tour. He is Glasgow's favourite adopted son and they welcomed himwith every tartan accessory imaginable, Celtic team strips, Scottish flags and an atmosphere like the best Hogmanay party.

POP ROD STEWART SECC GLASGOW

The two-and-a-half-hour set begins with a warm-up tape snatches of "I'm Getting Married in the Morning", "Rock the Kasbah", "Addicted to Love", "Maybe it's Because I'm a Londoner" - which has the crowd near riot with disapproval - and Harry Lauder's "I belong to Glasgow", which quickly restores things. This sets the tone for the night: a mix of serious rocking, self-parody and wearing of hearts on sleeves.

This mix, when held together by a voice as good as Rod's and tracks as strong as his best, is unbeatable. The difference these days is that it's the voice that's the star, not the glitzy outfits, cheesy bands or, heaven help us, his arse (although there's a smattering of all three). The best moments are the most pared down - the running together of the Tom Waits song, "Waltzing Matilda" and "I Don't Want to Talk About it" - and the most rocked up, like "Stay With Me". "Maggie May" and, unlikely though it sounds. "Do You Think I'm Sexy?" given the camp, ironic



Dear old Rod: no stranger to self-parody

But let's not get carried away. The band still delivers muscular, rocktastic workouts. treatment it's long cried out for. Rod's outfits still veer towards

the comical (who else could sing love songs in a pork-pie hat, red-and-white polka-dot shirt, black spangly trousers and yellow socks?) and he has no idea what to do when he's not singing - he has someone feeding him footballs to kick out to the crowd during the instrumental bits. And on the first night of the tour, he's clearly nervous. "Well, it's the home crowd," he explains, to yet another roar of Glaswegian approval. For once, Rod has nothing to be nervous about; his new-found respectability is both long overdue and well de-

served. He wears it rather well. ELISABETH MAHONEY

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ynics are much given

marketing." They're

convinced that the long-running

success of tourist attractions such

as Les Misérables or The Phantom

of the Opera is a triumph of hard sell

over substance. Now, these two

shows are probably their creators'

finest achievements, but the gloom

merchants may have certainly

The recently departed head of ex-

ternal affairs at the Royal Opera

House, Judy Grahame, has just

teamed up with the Saatchi broth-

ers to form a new Arts Marketing

operation. Interviews with her have

mistakenly suggested that arts

organisations need more sophisti-

cated marketing - i.e. M&C Saatchi

Arts - to reach their potential audi-

ences. She should take a closer

look around her at theatreland.

Once upon a time, it was show busi-

one of the grander hotel chains, you

are unlikely to have heard of the

Society of the Golden Keys. This all-

but-clandestine coterie is made up

entirely of concierges who, among

other activities, go to West End

shows for free. Why? Because

they're one of around 15 to 20,000

little-known organisations who are

responsible for party bookings. Or,

to put it more simply, they put burns

range from individuals running local

amateur drama societies to major

company social secretaries and bus

and coach operators to interna-

whether they are multinational or

strictly minor-league, they are all

wooed by producers as part of the

Although the figure is lower in this

country, group sales on a hit show

in the US, such as Disney's stu-

pendously successful The Lion

King, can account for between 25

and 35 per cent of capacity. That's

a helluva lot of tickets, all of which

are paid for well in advance, which

is great news for investors who

rixiously await pay back, let alone profit. With production costs spi-

figure millions for a Broadway

blockbuster, such considerations

are crucial, particularly in the run-

up to opening when producers need

as big an advance as possible to

bankroll the initial run. This is the

most difficult period to sell, as there

is no word of mouth and the only

enticement is often the name of the

star or, in the case of Andrew Lloyd

Welber, the composer - his name are generates box-office revenue.

the more significant group sales

become. Ticket availability is divided

up into separate date periods: "Now

Booking until April" (or whenever).

Within each period, wily producers

aim to pre-sell entire swathes of tick-

ets to agencies and groups before

the general public even gets a look

in. Pre-sell a healthy percentage and

you not only make money faster, but

you also create pressure on the

remaining tickets. This means that

they tend to move faster, to the point

ALTHOUGH SUPPLIED with

enough happy tunes to keep

you whistling for hours, The

King and I is not the easiest

musical to stage. It requires

a display of pomp fit for an

autocrat. The king of Siam

has to put on a good show,

the more robust it appears -

the more we are drawn into

the process by which Anna,

the English schoolteacher

brought in to enlighten the

(albeit lovingly) strips away

masculine ego they sustain.

rustle up palatial opulence

Hammerstein's Broadway

hit. In 1998, at the BAC, Phil

and a cast of thousands

for Rodgers' and

In 1956, Hollywood could

royal household, fatally

the decorative layers to

expose the uncertain

However, the longer a show runs,

into since we

group sales initiative.

These group sales organisations

Unless you are the proprietor of

ness: now it's show business.

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A THE MAN

thronging with tots. It's only a matter of time, you think, before teacher's hoop skirt sends one of them flying. But somehow - all credit to the choreographer, Jack Gunn - disaster is averted. If the show isn't quite a triumph, that's partly because of the sound (heavy

on the synth and drums) and partly because Willmott seems uncertain as to how to tackle the imperial/ colonial politics. Although Alan Mosley's King has Yul Brynner's hip-holding poise, shaved crown and visibly soft heart, he is performing in an era where the "me

"The King and I"

ON THE FRINGE

THE KING AND I BAC, LONDON IN KILLING RASPUTIN BRIDEWELL, LONDON IN IF I WERE LIFTED UP FROM EARTH LINCOLN'S INN, LONDON

Tarzan, you Jane"-style book is less than cute. The children are, however, and their presence infects the enterprise with an innocent, warm-hearted joy that will leave even the coldest curmudgeon feeling like a proud parent at prizegiving.

It took many attempts to kill Rasputin, so the story goes. It has apparently taken five years to get Killing Rasputin into the shape in which it now appears at the Bridewell. Unfortunately, the musical composed by James McConnel and worded by the credible team of Kit Hesketh-Harvey and

Stephen Clark - bears all the signs of a botched job. There are the bare bones of a good idea: that Yusupov, the aristocrat who freed the ruling Romanovs from the mystic's grip just before the Revolution, was erotically in thrall to this peasant upstart; the murder was a statement of self-liberation.

As Yusupov, Hal Fowler has a confident singing voice that satisfyingly belies the character's riven sexuality, while Jerome Pradon fits the bill as a bearded figure of malevolent intensity. But though Ian Brown's production (beautifully lit by Simon Mills) seems sure of itself, the journey by which the two men fall in and out of affection gets mired in flummery-filled numbers

("Evil nourishes good, young man" sounds like Harry Enfield, not wisdom) and the rigmarole of historical inevitability. Russia's greatest love machine does get a brief orgy. Perhaps if they upped the body count, the writers might have a hit AandBC Theatre

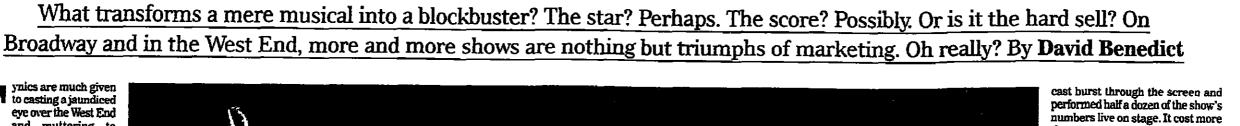
Company's resurrection play If I were Lifted Up from only (0870 8701023)

Earth is more than well intentioned, boasting a musicality far removed from the excesses of Jesus Christ Superstar. In the early-17thcentury Lincoln's Inn Chapel, this remarkable production derives its powerful rhythms from William Tyndale's 1534 translation of the New Testament.

"No Tyndale, no Shakespeare" is the slogan here, but the resonances are as much Gavin Bryars as the Bard: a group of Fiftiesdressed, barefoot disciples dart about, their words inwardly intoned or thrown across the congregation in exhilarating antiphons, forcing heads to turn in the shoulder-high pews. Catch it before it disappears as fast as Elliot Levey's hip and hypnotic Jesus.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH "The King and P. BAC,

London SW11 (0171-223 2223) to 10 Jan; Killing Rasputin'. The Bridewell, EC4 (0171-936 3456) to 16 Jan; If I Were Lifted Up from Earth' Lincoln's Inn Chapel, WC2, 8pm, tonight



than £50,000 to fly the company

over (and back on time to perform

the next day), but it jump-started the

campaign with a vengeance.

Crispin Ollington, formerly of Dewynters, the advertising/marketing company who control the London campaign - now working directly for the Weisslers - believes that although the presentation didn't immediately yield a lot of return, it instilled enormous confidence in ticket agents, who are crucial to the equation. "In the USA, there are no ticket agencies of consequence." he explains. "Here, agencies can be responsible for up to 50 per cent of sales." He points to the fact that, like Cameron Mackintosh (whose organisation is very good at this), the Weisslers had the courage of their convictions - they knew they had a winner after all - and looked after their group bookers and sales agents with extraordinary care, which is not always the case. "If agents feel resentful, they are not going to sell the show." Ollington points out. He is firmly of the opinion that audiences are not fools. but concedes that the hype can certainly add to a show's momentum.

That view is shared by Nick Blackburn of Ticketmaster, the country's largest ticket agency. They work on a commission basis negotiated separately on every production - with costs passed on to the buyers at a rate (in this instance) of £1 per ticket. A worldwide operation with 24-hour computerised box offices, Ticketmaster helps market shows via media partners such as Tower Records and HMV, plus direct mailing: their own priority booking club has 42,000 members alone. He admits that on Chicago, the buzz from the advertising campaign was so strong that the impetus for bookers was already there. He thinks the real push will come later in the run. and cites Mackintosh as someone who is particularly hot on the ability to build audiences through years two, three, and beyond. "Even with a smash hit, you have to keep that as the public perception. The job is to keep it up there."

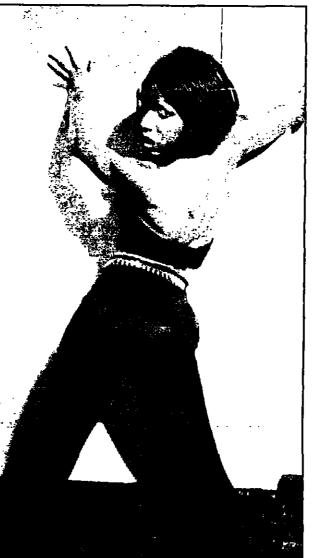
Thus, in tandem with Dewynters, Chicago will continue to spend on advertising, direct mailings, entertaining bookers, promotional evenings, print distribution, new posters, leaflets, classified advertising, display advertising, and radio and sales promotions. No one is prepared to divulge precise figures, but Ollington admits that anyone with dreams of blockbuster West End musical success had better think of spending around £500.000. Even the most cynical marketeer

will tell you that you cannot market recouped its investment in record your way out of a disaster. If a show is terrible, word gets out and you might as well pack up and go home. But add careful marketing to good material, and you have a recipe for serious success.

But it's not a blueprint. If a show is playing to 20 per cent business. there is little that you can do to save it. But with a potential winner hovering around the 60/70 per cent mark, marketing can make a serious difference. And in the commercial theatre, the difference between loss and profit is all the difploded when the entire New York ference in the world.



Less show, more business







Max Zadukul's publicity shots for the 'Chicago' campaign, including, top, Ruthie Henshall astride the show's logo

out. However, such "Returns Only" amouncements are sometimes only partly true: dedicated audiences can often find seats via agencies who have been unable to shift their pre-

bought tickets. All of which suggests that largescale successes - especially musicals - don't survive through quality and word of mouth alone. Indeed, the days of seats being sold simply by theatregoers reading reviews and trotting round to the box office of their own accord are long gone. where a show is generating its own Cameron Mackintosh, the Really

hype by being permanently sold Useful Group, and nearly all the other major players, rely upon a dizzving array of little-known marketing initiatives that can yield spectacular box-office returns.

Some producers, notably Robert Fox or Michael Codron, who specialise in quality productions of straight theatre - transfers from the National and/or plays by solid writers such as Ayckbourn - have little time for much of this, but everyone else relies on an entire infrastructure of agencies, group sales, and theatre publicity firms. And all of these are reliant upon advertising.

Theatre advertising amounts to a promise which the show must deliver on. Chicago does this in spades on the back of one the most striking campaigns in recent history. The startlingly sexual imagery - pho-tography by Max Zadukul - had already gone down a storm in its Broadway incarnation. But the most daring thing about the campaign on both sides of the Atlantic was the deliberate eschewal of the accepted practice of splashing adjectives in huge type across pictures of the stars, and generally hyping the production to the sky. The Chicago cam-

paign looked more like a succession of Calvin Klein spreads displayed everywhere in a nine week blitz leading up to opening night. The only thing that told you it was a show were the words, "Chicago, The Drop Dead Musical", splashed across the

ads in murderous blood red. No one will admit to the size of the weekly running costs, but with a wage bill for 15 musicians and a cast of 26, including star names commanding four-figure weekly salaries, the word "steep" just about covers it. Nevertheless, the campaign worked. (The Broadway production

The six-month London campaign began in May 1997, but it didn't really get going until the now fabled industry launch in July at the Prince of Wales Theatre. In an unprecedented move, the producers, Fran and Barry Weissler, invited ticket agencies, advertisers, group bookers and selected members of the press to the theatre one lunchtime and proceeded to show a video of the New York production.

The already charged atmosphere ex-

time: a jaw-dropping 21 weeks.)

New lamps for old

THIS IS the time of year when actors, suffixed by the title of the current hot television property, stagger into the flood-lights to test their rusty theatre skills. But if you were worried that traditional pantomime had been relegated to the village hall, be cheered to know that there is one corner of the land still uncontaminated by the mediocrity of Fifties and before, producing a commercialism, where jobbing actors demonstrate their mastery of stagecraft without relying on cheap gimmicks

and cheaper fame. Salisbury Playhouse's Alof its turned-up shoes, refustopical trivialities. There is little here that would not have been familiar - and entertaining - to an audience a century ago. Some things (such as moonlight and love songs) are never out of date, and this truly traditional entertainment has the Playstation generation on the edge of its seats

screaming with delight. The composer Kate Edgar's tunes lean heavily on past musical styles, particularly the musical's heyday of the Twenties and Thirties. Musically However, this production's To 16 January (01722 320333)

REVIEW ALADDIN SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE

speaking, this verges on "Beansprout Salad Days", but is all the more appealing for it. Edgar's experience on Return to the Forbidden Planet is evidenced in her cull from the the shortest-trousered audiprogramme of new yet comfortingly familiar foot-tappers.

The cast also lend a contemporary edge to the characters. Rachel Matthews's Princess replaces the usual asaddin is traditional to the tips partame-flavoured principal girl all drooping femininity ing to rely on lavish effects or and coy downward glances. with a tough cookie who's gagging for it. Dale Superville's blue-romper-suited Genie of the Lamp crosses the frenetic india-rubber convolutions of Jim Carrey's Joker with the chaotic energy of the Things in Dr Seuss's The Cat in the Hat. Meanwhile, Simon Egerton sweeps all before his melodramatic cloak as the baddest baddy of them all, Abanazar, a refined and eminently hissable wizard with a strong feel of Laurence Olivier about him.

power of the ensemble. Another reviewer on another night could lavish equal praise on three other actors. Shining through Colin Wakefield's script and Edgar's direction is an intelligence that has considered the child's-eye view, including enough gags aimed at ence members to prevent their attention from wandering. There is constant interaction across the footlights, and an ample smattering of well managed and eagerly contributed audience participation. It takes a slightly ironic sense of humour to make one of the biggest audience shout-outs the word "Mummy"; oh, how they can bellow that!

strength lies partly in the

The final test of any pantomime is its ability to appeal to a vast age range. From engrossed four-year-olds through cheering teenagers to smiling adults, Salisbury's Aladdin appears to enrapture everyone. It's rare that any production genuinely deserves the title of "a show for all the family". But this does. **TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE**



Out of loyalty to teams such as Arsenal, supporters may be induced to buy pensions, insurance and other products recommended by the company Daily Mirror

A pitch for the fans

We buy the scarf, the shirt and the bobble hat in support of our favourite football team - so why not choose the financial services they recommend? By Alison Steed

or many of us, football is a religion. We attend our team's weekend and weekday "services" with fanatical regularity.

Stuart Biddle, professor of exercise and sports psychology at Loughborough University explains the phenomenon: "People [have] a tribe mentality. They like to identify with a team, or an area, a region, a town, and sport is a good way of doing that, particularly if the side is successful. It gives people a sense of belonging, a social identity."

As part of our support, we buy our team's football shirts, scarves, mugs, bobble hats and other paraphernalia. But this, it appears, is not enough. Financial services firms. and the clubs themselves, want more. They want us to purchase £671. Standard Life offered £1,090, everything - pensions, insurance, and Scottish Mutual £1,122. At five credit cards, savings accounts - years, Allied Dunbar's would be from their nominated companies.

Leeds United is one of the latest teams to cosy up to an insurance company. It recently joined forces with Allied Dunbar to offer a full range of financial services to 100,000 fans in the UK. Its affinity products have so far generated £250,000 in profit this year. Part of the deal involves perks, such as free match tickets, to fans who discuss financial products with club representatives.

Jeff Wagland, external affairs director at Allied Dunbar, says: "These products are things that Leeds fans

could get through Allied Dunbar advisers anyway, if they wanted to."

Allied Dunbar's Adaptable Pension Plan, sold through Leeds United, offers a facility to stop and start contributions at any time, plus disability waiver. Its charging structure is front-end-loaded, giving bad transfer and paid-up values at the beginning of the plan but aboveaverage maturity values at the end.

Charles Levett-Scrivener, product services director of Towry Law, a firm of independent financial advisers, says: "Normally that is looked upon as a bad thing. I would suspect with football fans that it is.

"We did this survey earlier in the year. At the end of year one, Allied Dunbar's transfer value, based on £100 per month contributions, was £371, compared to the average of £5,270, the average would be £5,845, and Standard Life would be £6,440."

Paid-up values follow a similar pattern, and no free switches between funds are offered.

The club is working as an appointed representative for the life company, so there is no product option, but the allegation that fans get a bad deal is refuted.

Adam Pearson, commercial director of Leeds United, says: "To say that affinity [products] give you incentives from the club, and help the club but give the fan a poorer rate,

is totally wrong... Supporters are not savings accounts are lower than on vices products, and they have got daft; if the deal is not right they will not purchase it."

Tony Tierney, managing director of Rangers Financial Services. agrees. "There may be a warmer reception from the fans, as there is an affinity for the club. But they still have to be satisfied that what is being presented to them is something that they want to have."

In both cases, the club uses money from its financial services business to boost the playing team. There is no denying, however, that interest rates on some associated

Bank of Scotland

Leeds and Holbeck

. Market Harborough

West Bromwich

Yorkshire Bsoc

Credit Cards

Bank of Scotland

Noolwich

RB5

Norwich & Peterborough

comparable accounts elsewhere. Egg. for example, is offering 8 per cent gross on an instant-access

The highest value for a footballrelated savings account, the Derby County account with Bank of Scotland, pays 6.5 per cent gross. The lowest is only 24 per cent gross through the Coventry City account with Market Harborough.

Warren Perry, senior investment manager of Whitechurch Securities, another financial advice firm, says: "Newcastle offer financial ser-

Rate (gross per annu

4.5%-6.5%

5.25%-6.25%

2.50%-5.25%

2.40%-6.05%

3,15%-5,45%

4.25%-5.00%

3.00%-4.05%

19.9% APR

19.9 % APR

21.7% APR

19.0% APR

23.2% APR

4.91%

4.50%

SCORING BETTER INTEREST RATES

Derby County

Leeds United

Coventry City

Norwich City

Arsenal

Celtic

Liverpool

Rangers FC

Norwich City

Birmingham City

Charlton Athletic

Huddersfield Town

West Bromwich Albion

such a phenomenal following, so loyal, that anything to do with the club is almost a 'need-to-have' product, as opposed to a 'want-to-have' product. [But] people do need to shop around."

Pensions is a main area of concern. Unlike building society accounts, pensions are difficult to compare. The other problem is that the margins are much higher in pensions. Allied Dunbar and Standard Life both offer pensions through clubs, and Legal & General is in talks with a number of clubs about offering its financial products, including pensions and Individual Savings Accounts from April next year.

Justin Modray, investment adviser at Chase de Vere, says: "Think carefully before you take out a club product, and ask yourself whether you are compromising your investment, especially with a pension. It is a massive investment for the whole of your life. With a savings account, if you feel you are getting a bad deal. you can easily go elsewhere."

However, fans themselves appear to be happy with the situation. as long as it gives them a better team and better facilities. John Macmillan, general secretary of Glasgow Rangers Supporters Association. says: "If supporters want to do their homework and get some advice, then they may find that they get a better deal elsewhere. But it would be up to each individual to look at that."

Picking the perfect PEP

REDUCING TAX liability has to be one of the main aims for investors. Unfortunately, there are few options available these days. The two most popular are the Tessa and the "general" PEP, into which £6,000 can go

However, until April 1999 you can also invest £3,000 into the single company PEP I think this is a great idea, but is it suitable for many investors? This situation was highlighted a couple of days ago when Mr Melton called to discuss one. "I am going to put Halifax

shares in a single company PEP What do you think?" Why have you chosen

Halifax?" I asked. Mr Melton responded: "It is a large, well known company, and has fallen a long way since its highest point early this year, so it must be a good buy."

"You must be careful selecting individual companies as the risk can be high, even with companies like Halifax that look safe," I replied. "First, you should read the latest annual report, and find out about Halifax's business plans. Then technical facts like the price/ earnings ratio and the yield should be considered and compared with the rest of the sector. You should also consider analysts' forecasts, and compare the company with the financial sector as a whole, and try to ascertain whether or not Halifax is likely to outperform

"Do I really need to take all that trouble?" asked Mr Melton. I suggested that we look at this from a different angle. He owns a chain of greengrocers. "Say you saw a shop for sale on the corner of your road and you wanted to invest in it. Would you not first ask a few questions?"

the market."

"Yes, I would want to know its annual profit and overheads, how many greengrocers are in the area, if any superstores are being built locally, and how loyal is the customer base."

"Exactly," I said, "and you should take the same amount of care when picking a company to invest in on the stockmarket.

Mr Melton agreed this was true and wondered why he had not thought about this before. Utilising your single company PEP allowance is a good idea, but you must ensure it fits in with your overall investment strategy. He holds a number of shares which are a mixture of privatisations and windfalls.

"You must be careful picking individual shares because your experience with windfalls and privatisations is very positive," I stated. He agreed that they had done exceptionally well. In fact, they were some of the best investments he'd had.

"But," I countered, privatisations were sold off cheaply with a view to them

THE FIXERS:



COCKERILL

being successful from day one. As for the windfalls, you have not paid a penny for them. Things are different when you sit down and start from scratch picking squares; that is why we recommend unit trusts and investment trusts. Your investment is managed on a daily basis by a professional manager and is spread between many different companies."

"But you can't invest through these in a single company PEP." said Mr Melton.

I replied: "Technically this is true, but there are a number of products that get around this problem. To qualify as a holding within a single company PEP you must hold a UK company or a European company. Unit and investment trusts are excluded. One or two investment groups have launched companies that qualify as European companies, but operate in a way similar to unit and investment trusts."

"What you mean I that can use my single company PEP allowance and put the money into an investment that spreads my risk," said Mr Melton.

"Yes," I replied. "I like the **HSBC** Triple Allowance single company PEP. This invests in the UK, US, Europe and Japan. tracking their indices."

The following day I wrote a letter to Mr Melton outlining the basics of our conversation and explaining the HSBC Triple Allowance PEP in more detail.

This particular single company PEP fits Mr Melton's circumstances well. His overall portfolio of equities is worth £20,000, most of which is invested in unit trusts, and to invest £3,000 in a single share through a PEP would have been off-balance in relation to the rest of his portfolio.

Mr Melton decided to go ahead with his single company PEP investment in HSBC. He now wants me to look at his wife's circumstances: she liked the idea of investing in the Body Shop but is currently having second thoughts.

Tim Cockerill is managing director at Whitechurch Securities, independent financial advisers, 14 Gloucester Road, Bristol BS7 8AE (0800 374413) 292 2222

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The day the bread bin ordered bunds

you can change from a Master of the Universe to a whimpering toddler? I should know; I've spent the past two weeks battling the worst flu I've ever had. By the time I was able to move from bed to the sofa, I felt like the scraps from a vampire's banquet and was probably about as interesting to talk to. All the more generous, then, of Laura to pop in every evening on her way back from work to see how I was getting on. "Don't worry, you're doing me a favour, too," she said on

the third visit. "Rory's dragged all the others off to some hideous brokers' Christmas party, but I used you as an excuse to escape. And with that, we got down to chatting. Findlay, it seems, has

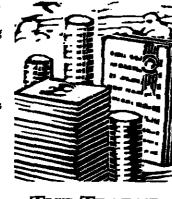
found out about a fridge that

can e-mail you at work to tell you when you're low on milk or orange juice or whatever. "Anyway," said Laura, "he was going on and on about it, and how you could put it in your kitchen cupboards as well. And then we realised that's what must have happened to that trader the other week, the one who did or didn't lose £10m.

He's obviously testing a

prototype. His bread bin sent

him an e-mail saying, 'Buy



THE TRADER

buns!' and he misread it and bought bunds instead." The following evening, Laura turned up again clutching a box of chocolates and a copy of the new trading system manual.

have a look at our great masterpiece," she said. "It looks great, doesn't it?" So we found ourselves laughing about all the work

we'd put into it, and how awful

the trading system had been

"I thought you might want to

before we got it sorted out. "Do you remember?" said Laura. "It had so many holes in it, we were thinking of gathering them all together into one big hole and offering it to the Jubilee Line. I wish you weren't ill; it's boring without you." Then she went home.

The next day a vast bouquet of roses and lilies arrived for me. Suddenly I felt a million times better, so when Laura rang to say she couldn't make it that evening, I didn't mind.

"I'll lie on the sofa and gaze at that amazing bouquet you all sent me. Did you choose it?" I asked. There was a pause. "Choose it?" said Laura. "I

didn't even know about it. I expect Rory sorted it out." And we agreed that that must have been what happened. and Laura went back to her

number-crunching. Later on, the doorbell rang. It couldn't be Laura, so it was almost bound to be Jehovah's Witnesses. But the voice over the intercom was a familiar one: "Hello Miss Invalid. Can I come in?" I felt my heart skip a beat.

What was Jaap doing here? And why was I so pleased to see him? As he walked into the flat he spotted the flowers and smiled.

"Do you like them?" he said. "I chose them specially." I felt my knees go weak. But of course they would, I told myself. That's what happens when you have flu.

Size is not everything

Mergers are not the only route to survival in the accounting field. By Roger Trapp

the accounting market is generally reckoned to have put the squeeze on firms nestling just below what are now the Big Five - to such an extent that another round of mergers is seen to be inevitable. However, while some of these so-

called second-tier practices are known to be exploring such deals, Pannell Kerr Forster is adamant that they do not represent the only route to survival. While not ruling out a link-up all together, Martin Goodchild, the recently appointed managing partner, points out that in this area "marrying cultures becomes very difficult". In particular, he says, such a deal "has got to make commercial sense, rather than just mean getting bigger".

THE CONSOLIDATION at the top of

This "size is not everything" attitude carries through into his strategy for the Hatton Gardenbased firm. Explaining why he is pleased to have reported fee income for the year to 30 April marginally ahead of the last 12 months, at £74.4m, Mr Goodchild says: "We've concentrated on growing profit rather than turnover. There's no point in growing revenues if you're

not making money." Quite. But Mr Goodchild and his team have achieved in the past year only a negligible improvement in net profit, from £15.7m to £15.9m. The rise is more dramatic when it



Martin Goodchild, managing partner of Pannell Kerr Forster

is put in terms of average profit per partner - £126,000 against £112,000 last time round - because the number of partners has been reduced from 140 to 126.

To some extent, Mr Goodchild is right when he says that increasing partners' earnings in this way is an important basis for future growth. After all, nothing makes partners more disgruntled than the perception that they are falling behind in

the pay league. And, as one or two other middlemarket firms have found, once such people start to vote with their feet

the organisation as a whole is on the slippery slope. Stressing that some partners have been with the firm for decades, he says that "partner loyalty is very good".

But whether Mr Goodchild has come up with a sustainable strategy for remaining an independent force depends just as much on his other policy - restructuring the firm to "meet future challenges"

This has already seen such moves as the disposal of the Aberdeen practice and the Worcester practice's insolvency arm - which means that growth on a like-for-like

basis is in fact stronger than the headline figures indicate, he adds. One area that will remain crucial is that of hotels and leisure, where

the firm has a longstanding expertise that it is now using to diversify into buying and selling hotels. It also claims to be the only middle-market firm that can compete with the Big Five in developing software - and has sold programmes to organisations as diverse as the Lloyd's of London insurance market and the Kennel Club.

But whatever area it is operating in, the firm is determined to come across as entrepreneurial. Mr Goodchild's own career certainly bears out that policy, since he was for some time closely involved with the development of Sanctuary, a Stock Exchange-quoted entertainment business that is perhaps best known for managing the heavy metal rock group Iron Maiden.

"It's part of our entrepreneurial culture," explains Mr Goodchild, on the firm's policy of encouraging such links. "It gives an insight into

what a real business is doing." Consequently, he argues, it gives the firm greater credibility when seeking to advise clients that might have started small but are looking to expand internationally.

"They want a personal service from experts who understand their business," he says.

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How I got my future all mapped out

I WORK FOR ...

DAISY EVANS WORKS FOR NICOLAS BABIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ETAK, THE DIGITAL MAPPING COMPANY

ast year when I came back from Japan, where I had been teaching English for two years, I decided to apply for jobs within the business sphere because I wanted to learn how global business functioned. Feeling that information technology was the way forward in the business world, I narrowed my choice down to companies specialising in developing technological communications, although it was an area I knew little about. However, rather than retraining via a course, I decided to pick up skills on the job. When I saw an advert for an

assistant at a digital mapping company it took my fancy, and I applied ar the position even though the comany was asking for someone with two years' experience in a technology company. I had seen digital mapping applied to in-car navigation systems in Japan, and was curious to know more about how these devices worked, how they were being marketed and who was using them. The thought of being part of a company developing a geographic information system fascinated me.

At the interview Nicolas, my boss-to-be, seemed a little scary because he was the very image of a professional manager. I was intrigued to discover that he was actually the same age as me, which set me thinking about how professional'sm is really an aspect of somee's character, rather than a mask adopted for the sake of it. I warmed to Nicolas when he emphasised

that he was looking for someone with the right attitude as well as integrity, curiosity and enthusiasm - rather than just skills.

I told him that I was interested in the Internet and Web-based applications, so when we began developing our Intranet site, shortly after I arrived. I was given the chance to get involved in building it up. As the project developed, so did my understanding of an area of the applicas on of data in computerised form. It also made my colleagues' work more accessible to me rather than shrouded in mystery. But it was only once I was given a demonstration of er in the car and prefer to travel on Nicolas is highly efficient and very down, which means that his staff a personal navigation system, in the a bike - a very low-tech form of transport. But any form of technology that role more that of a team-worker than form of a lap-top sitting beside me enhances traffic flow will also imon a car journey, that I saw how the pieces of the puzzle fitted together. prove the life of other road users, and it seems absurd that the average fre-It was amazing to be able to watch the real environment through which quent driver loses five working days we were travelling reflected on the a year waiting in traffic. screen, while a satellite positioning



'I'm not a conventional PA, but that's because Nicolas has a progressive approach,' says Daisy of her boss

signal tracked our movements. relationship. but I think that there Meanwhile, the system was planning

us when to turn left and right and keeping us out of heavy traffic. Ironically, I am not a big believ-

Nicolas and I have quite a subtle

is a very good level of trust between the most efficient route for us, telling us. It amuses me that the stereotypical boss is seen as creative and up after him or her. The fact is that couraging and never puts people

CONRAN ROCHE LIMITED

Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the free weeks immediately following the dute of the said Special Resultation apply to the Crum under Section 176 of

the Act for an order prohibiting the said payment out of capital.

CONTURA LANDSCAPES LIMITED The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE 6 HEREBY CIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insohency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will beheld at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 10D on 16th December 1988 at 12 00 mon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection

the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection
(20a) of the said Act, Mr Peter Comps
of Purpleton and Appleby, 32 High
Street, Manchuster, Mai 1QO is
appointed to act as the Qualend
insolvency Practatione who will furaish creditors with such information
without now recognitive memory.

as they may reasonably require.

Dated this 30th day of November

RUSHMORE REED

Registesed Not 03382742. Vading or Other Names: Rushmore Reed Limited. Administrative Received: Maurice Raymond Domington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charlerhouse Square, London ECIM 6EN. Date of appointments: 1st December 1998. By Whom Appointed: Singer & Friedlander Factors. Limited. Date of Mortgage Debenture: 14th May 1998. Assessment The whole of the assets of the company.

Unusual Gifts

Dated 2nd December 1998

I guess I am not really the conventional PA, but I think that's partly because Nicolas has a progressive approach towards his employees. disorganised, needing a PA to tidy He's not stuffy: instead he's en-

At the interview Nicolas, my boss-to-be, seemed a little scary - so I was intrigued to discover that he was actually the same age as me

> good at delegating, which makes my aren't bashful. It's a very different philosophy from the Japanese company I once a PA. Of course, part of my job is to keep everyone up to date with worked for, where the management Nicolas's agenda, but I don't work were so frightened of people skiving exclusively for him - and he certainly off and abusing the system that it actually caused the employees to misdoesn't ask me to organise his behave in rebellion. The dedication

of my colleagues here really impresses me.

Nicola Kurtz

With only 25 of us here, the office is small enough to have a family feeling. People aren't scared of telling jokes and interrupting each other and, since it's a young company, we all enjoy socialising together, which gives an additional energy to the working environment.

I feel quite a lot of freedom through my job, because it has helped to focus me and enhanced my self-discipline. As the business expands, I look forward to becoming more involved with it.

But already I get a sense of satisfaction from having made a centribution, however small, to the information revolution.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

Catching the habit

THERE IS more to Graham than meets the eye. Through my haze of exhaustion it begins to register that it's not just that he has no sense of humour, and it's not just that he needs to be seen to be giving dictation. There is something seriously wrong beneath the suit.

I should have spotted it immediately, given that his first move after shaking my hand was to take a Wet One from the nega-pot in the shadow of the box files and wipe down his palm with it before dropping it, two-fingered, into the bin. I'm so used to odd reactions from new bosses that I just thought it vas a new, imaginative way of making me feel unwelcome. It wasn't until I'd watched him surreptitiously do the same thing to three clients in a row that I started realising that this was a psychosis, not merely a weird way of pulling rank. Graham, it seems, is terrified

of germs. Now, we're all a little nervous of what we can pick up in offices. They're not hygienic places, especially with airconditioning carrying every cold virus breathed out by someone in the lift to every desk on the 15th floor. I mean, if the Queen can have egionnaire's disease in the ventilation system at Buck House, what hope is there for her subjects? What with people's habit of nicking pens and then putting them in their mouths, it's surprising that any

of us is still alive. But that doesn't explain why Graham's Wet Ones are not, in fact, as I discovered when bunting through the box files for a copy of last month's board meeting minutes. Wet Ones at all. but a mega-box of sterile wipes. He uses them constantly. First thing in the morning, first thing after lunch and last thing at night. Graham wipes down his entire desk with a wad. paying special attention to the crevices around the drawer handles. Graham is the Michael

Jackson of merchant banking.

And it's not just that. He uses them for wiping down pens. pencils, staplers, the keyboard of his computer, his fingers after he's handled a piece of paper. Once a week, a dignified young woman in an apron and rubber gloves, who doesn't seem to speak a word of English apart from "Good morning", comes round the office with a squirty bottle of something vaguely pine-scented and some J-cloths, and wipes over the earphones and



THE TEMP

mouthpieces of the telephones. I find this vaguely comforting. I don't know if you've ever looked at the little holes on a telephone mouthpiece, but it's quite a disturbing sight: slightly mushroomy, slightly cheesy. It's nice that someone is cleaning the fungi out before they get us. Graham, however, isn't content with this. When she's there, he shrinks back from his desk. When she's gone, he gets out his wipes and carefully covers every square centimetre that she's already been over. And as he does it, his Adam's apple bobs as though he's trying to stop himself being sick.

The thing is, the habit is catching. I d never looked at my environment in such detail before, or thought about where everything might have been. The pub must occasionally pass Health and Safety inspections. I guess, but I suddenly find myself washing my hands each time one of my builder clients emerges from the loo and hands me his glass for refilling. and I have to stop myself from doing the same after handling change. In the office, following Graham's lead, I have started checking coffee-cups as they emerge from the machine in case some foreign body has attached itself to the outside.

Not that my boss has noticed. In fact, he regards me as unclean enough to go well beyond the call of duty. This morning, he arrived on tiptoe, and his skin was positively green. "Good morning, Graham." I said. He didn't answer; he seemed to be concentrating on standing on one foot, while undoing the laces on the other with the tip of a paper knife. Then he slipped it off and waved it, sole first, at me, so I saw what was on the bottom. "Oh." I said, eveing it.

Strangulated syllables emerged from the very front of Graham's mouth, as though be was afraid to open his airways too wide. "Can you," he said, "deal with this?"

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CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a framon was on 17th November 1999
presented to Her Majerty's Figh Court or
Justice for the reduction of the shart
capital of the above samed Company from
I 1000000 to \$800000 by the camedation
of its owing defound these residual

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petiting is directed to be beard those countries of the said Petiting is directed to be beard before the Registers of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, Loudou WCA, 21.1. at Wickensday the 16th December 1998.

ANY creditur or shausholder of the

payment of the regulated charge for th

rame: Dated this 9th day of December 1998

No.906176 of 1998 IN THE HIGH COURT OF

JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF

GAINSBOROUGH STUD MANAGEMENT LIMITED

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the

High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated 25th

Chancery Division dated 25th November 1998 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £50,000,000 to £16,904,729 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of

registered by the Registrar of Companies on 30th November 1998.

Dated 9th December 1998

Arnheim Tite & Lewis 32 Farringdon Street London EC4A JTL

Solicitors for the Company

Ref: SB/THM

Legal Notices No. 006847 of 1998 IN PARLIAMENT

SESSION 1998-99 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL IN THE MATTER OF WOOD & WOOD INTERNATIONAL SIGNS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by the Kent County Council there-inates referred to as 'the Council' and 'the county' it or leave to intro-duce a Brit thereinates referred to as 'the Brit'y under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summa-

(1) Yo provide that a person shall not carry on the business of a dealer in second-hand goods in the county unless he is registered by the Council or exempted from registration and that any gremises from which the business of a second-hand dealer is carried out shall also be registered and that registration of the dealer and premises remain in force for three years: (2) To provide that every person so registered must keep a record of all transactions relating to second-hand goods including a description of the articles, the name and address of the person from whom the articles were acquired and the odomster reading and registration number of any vehicle acquired. A record must also be made of any transaction in which a second-hand article is sold for more than \$100 and that the record shall be kept for a period of 2 years and must be produced on request to an authorised officer of the Council or a police constable:

ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the inne of the bearing in person to Counsel for that purpose. A crep of the said Perinan wiff to turnshed to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned substances or the contract of the conducted shareful or the same by the undermentioned substances or (3) To provide that it shall be an offence to deal in second-hand goods without having registered in accordance with the provisions of the Bill, to enter information in the record or give such informa-tion that is known to be laise and to acquire second-hand goods. from persons under 16 years old, where the price paid or the value of the goods exceeds £10:

(4) To enact provisions relating to occasional sales and squat trading, including the giving of notice to the Council 21 days in advance of the holding of an occasional sale or the carrying out of squat trading. If no such notice is given and the Council or the police squat tracking, it no such notice is given and the contract of the police suspect that any such sale or trading is to take place, is taking place or has taken place they may demand certain information about the sale form the holder of the sale or person carrying out the trading-provision is also made for the keeping of records by the holder of certain sales and the person who holds the sale or carries out the squat trading must display his name and business address at the sale or place of trading and on any notices relating thereto:

(5) To exact provisions of a general nature applicable to the Bill including powers of entry, inspection and examination, obstruction of authorised officer, liability of directors, defence of due diligence and the application of certain provisions of the Public Health Act 1936.

On and after the 4th December 1998, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at a price of £1 per copy at the offices the undermentioned County Secretary and Parliamentary

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for the deposit of such a Petition in the first House will be 6th February 1999, if the Bill originates in the House of Lords or the 30th January 1999, if the originates in the House of Commons, Information regarding the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments. House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents. Dated this 2nd day of December, 1998

> The Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ SHARPE PRITCHARD Fulwood Place, London, WC1V 6HG.

CLASSIFIED

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1998-99

Legal Notices

BAXI PARTNERSHIP LUMITED TRUSTS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Basi Partnership Limited and the Trustees of an employee benefit must thereinafter referred to as "Tust No 2") for leave to introduce a Bill thereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short little for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:-

To validate certain actions taken in the past by the trustees of two employee benefit trusts (Trusts No. 1 and No. 2) established by Baxi Partnership Limited, a private holding company, where doubt has been cast over whether those actions were technically in conformity

To provide for the amendment of Trust No.2 by the replacement of its substantive provisions by the provisions as set out in the Bill.

CONRAN ROCHE LIMITED
Conran Roche Limited
(Company Nu. 2374858) ("the
Company 1 whose registered
office is at 22 Shad Thartes.
London SEI 27V has today
approved by Special Resolution
under Section 173 of the
Companies Act 1985 ("the Act")
a parment out of capital for the
purpose of acquiring its own
shares by purchase. The amount
of the permissible capital
powment (as defined in Section
171(3) of the Act) for the shares
in question is 1750,000. The
statutory declaration of the
directors and the auditors' report
required by Section 173 of the Act
are available for inspection at the
Company's registered office.
Any creditor of the Company may To disapply the rules of law relating to perpetuitles and per-petual trusts and any other enactment or rule of law restricting the accumulation of income under a trust insofar as they relate to Trust No.2 as amended by the Bitl.

On and after the 4th December 1998, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at a price of £1 per copy at the offices of the Company Secretary of Baxi Partnership Limited, Brownedge Road, Barnber Bridge, Preston, PR5 65N and the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

mentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Londs or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for the deposit of such a Petition in the flots House will be 6th February 1999, if the Bill originates in the House of Londs or the 30th January 1999, if it originates in the House of Commons. Information regarding the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Londs or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1998

ADDLESHAW BOOTH & CO., 100 Barbirolli Square, Manchester, M2 3AB. Solicitors. CHARLES RUSSELL

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Strand

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NEW FILMS

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U) Director: George Miller

DAY REVIEW .

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W: 0171 293 2505

Starring: Magda Szubanski, James Cromweil, **₽**£G Daily

The follow-up to 1995's Babe tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of waifs. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in layour of a bleak animatronic fairytale that verges on the sadistic. Adults should go a bundle on Miller's skewed, carnival ambience. What kids will make of it is anyone's guess.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House. Elephant & Castle Coronet. Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Cumden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulnam Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG) Director: Pat O'Connor

Starring: Menyl Streep, Michael Gambon, Kathy Surke

Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Irelandset saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. But it's not enough, and its static, stage-play origins are all too readily apparent.

West End: Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Director: Frank Capra Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionet Sammare:

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being. with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born, before returning merrily to his Joblike existence. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and at the day's end this is the making of the film; turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG)

Director: Alain Resnais Starring: Pierre Ardia, Sabine Azema Love him or loathe him, Last Year at Marienbad teur Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after the

Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayekhourn's Smoking/No Smoking comes this rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue. "inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and featuring a lot of Potter-esque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

RUSH HOUR (15) Director: Brett Ratner

Starring: Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Tom Wilkinson

Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (Money Talks' Ratner) and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalised physicality. It's a hit-and-miss affair.

West End: Elephant & Castle Coronel, Hammersmith Virgin. Odeon Camden Town. Odeon Kensington, Ödeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsen, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

TWILIGHT (15)

Director: Robert Benjon

Starring: Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene mackman

Twilight reunites Newman with his Nobody's Fool collaborator Benton for a zimmer-framed film noir which has the former's ageing gumshoe moving in with movie-star buddy Hackman and uncovering a skeleton in the family closet. While this is predictable stuff, muscular acting from a practised cast moves it along nicely. West End: Placa

YEAR OF THE HORSE (15)

Director: Jim Jamusch

Starring: Neil Young and Crazy Horse Jarmusch's documentary on Neil Young and Crazy Horse is respectful but never reverential. swinging between bracing live footage, robust interviews and discerning dips back into the archive. As a man, though, Young remains oddly oblique and unknowable, loitering in the background for most of the off-stage segments. He's content to let his music do the talking. West End: ABC Piccadilly. Renoir

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See The independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet. Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

Cinema. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

The students at writer-director Dan Rosen's American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regation that awards straight A-grades to the mates of suicides. Though not as nasty as the Scream films, this delivers a respectable quota of shocks. West End: Metro, Virgin Trocadero

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bandit Queen is the story of a female struggling to gain purchase in a male world. Kapur largely neglects the chance Kensington. Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE: (18)

Express is a creature conditioned by rumour and hearsay, its legend swelling in the 25 years since its release. But William Friedkin's horror is still terrifying. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18) Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG) >e The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Curzon Soho

Funeral and you'd get Maria Ripoll's dreadful Spanish dustmen. West End: Odeon Mezzanine - Chelsen, Warner Village West End

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Jeroen Krabbe's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers and newcomer Laura Fraser. West End: ABC Swiss Centre. Curzon Minema, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking

BARRELS (18) Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture opled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is an old-school pro. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine. Warner Village West End

LES MISERABLES (12)

Bille August turns Victor Hugo's novel into an enormous film and it's as traditional as literary adaptations come these days. It's earnest, differential and almost humourless. West End: Odeon West End

The transfer of the second sec

12 1000 100 1000 in Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises. herself as a soldier to spare her father from Monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New herself as a soldier to spare her father from Square/Tottenham Court Road Slums of Beverly Hills 1.30pm. York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new strong father/daughter relationship; honour and bloodsucker. West End: Odeon Comden Town, nobility, and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy visually innovative. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Suriss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, WarnerVillage West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Chelsea. Viroin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, for fun in a story of independence triumphing over rhetorical performers. West End: ABC Tottenham cruelty. West End: Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Sauare, Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U) As civilised and graceful as any romantic comedy ever made. West End: Curzon Soho

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odean Leicester Square, Odean Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

ROUNDERS (15)

Mix Twelve Monkeys with Four Weddings and a . John Dahl's poker-club thriller is not a grand comeback for the director of The Last Seduction Anglo-Spanish cornedy about a dumped boyfriend but it's certainly an improvement on the eminently who is transported back in time by mysterious forgettable Unforgettable. West End: Virgin

SLUMS OF BEVERLY HELLS (15) Tamara Jenkins's fictionalised account of her own teenage years in the outskirts of Beverly Hills lacks the wit of The Ice Storm and Boogie Nights. But her impeccable sense of comic timing is enhanced by a superb central performer in Alan Arkin. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Ritzy Cinema

VICTORY (15)

A Conrad adaptation which takes us to a sleazy botel in the South Seas, and provides some sale, literary acting from Simon Callow and friends. West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15) Jude Law plays a vampire who wines and dines his victims. An attempt to give an adult twist to a genre that's principally an adolescent enthusiasm. West End: ABC Panton Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.



stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach tilm - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic (above).

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases. The Fountainhead

(PG; Curzon Soho)

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Invention of Love Theatre Royal, Haymarket

A witty, hearthreaking fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman; scholarship and an unavailable heterosevael friend. To 24 Apr

Love Upon the Throne Comedy Theatre

The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brem tall two of them, below). Very fungs and oddly touching. To 31 Jun-

Angela Carter's Cinderella

Lyric Hammersmith

A least of inspired sillness and visual magic from Neil Bartlett and Improbable Theatre, To 9 Jun-

Arabian

Nights Young Vic A rayshingly costumed magic carpet ride in the Young Vie's іпсотратаble tradition of Christmas

shows, To 23 Jan

Kafka's Dick Piccadilly Theatre Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this hitarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in Peter Half's revival. To 27 Fem-

PACE TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Mirror Image National Gallery

A magpie's delight, Jonathan Miller curates a show of mirrors and shiny surfaces in painting, with virtuoso reflections from Van Eyek's Amolfini portrait to Helen Chadwick's Unions. To 13 Dec-

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery

Autobiographical installations from the surrealist sculptress feature a giant mother, spider presiding over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley Abbott Hall,

Kendal A retrospective of work by Bridget Riley (right) work from her early Sixties Op Art. moving from rippling mono-

chromes to colour.

stripes and diagonals. To 31 Jan.

Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery The people's Pre-Raphaelite centenary exhibition

gathers together many favourites such as King-Cophetia and the Beggar Maid, To 11 Jon.

Chris Ofili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester Turner Prize winner Offli is an upbent original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with

swirls of dots, eyes. Alros and black icons, and incorporating balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan-

TOM LUBBOCK

(0171-734 1506) O Piccadilly

ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) & Baker Street Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET (0870 9020404) © Piccadilly Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm. 8.20pm Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Wisdom of

Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm,

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) OP Piccadilly Circus Harnam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Year of The Horse 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm,

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.05pm.

3.25pm. 5.50pm, 8.25pm ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870 9020403) & Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm The Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Left Luggage 1.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm La Via Remaio Des Anges 1.30pm. 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm La Vie Revée Des Anges 3.45pm, 6.05pm.

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT

(0870 9020414) & Tottenham Court Road Antz 1.25pm, 6.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.35pm, 4pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm My Name Is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Negotiator 3.40pm, 8.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) O Barbican Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm. 6pm. 8.15pm Out of Sight 6pm.

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) & Sloane Square On Connait La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm. 4.15pm. 6.45pm. 9.30pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.30pm, 9.15pm Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Victory 2pm The Wisdom of

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) ← Green Park Dancing At Lughnasa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm) O Leicester Square/Tottenham
Court Road The Eel 1.30pm,
4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The
Fountainhead 2.45pm, 7.15pm
Henry Fool 3.20pm, 9pm It's A
Mondarful 116a 12.45pm Wonderful Life 12.45pm. 6.30pm The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE **CORONET** (0171-703 4968) ⊕ Elephant &

Castle Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 8.35pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE 8.45pm Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm. 6.10pm, 9pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm,

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) ← Notting Hill Sate It's A Wonderful Life .40pm Out of Sight 4.10pm. .40pm, 9.05pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) Ravenscourt Park Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 2,10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Negotiator 8.40pm Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

Circus/Leicester Square Buffalo 66 1pm, 3.30pm, 8.30pm Dead Man's Curve opm German Film

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) → Hyde Park Corner hnightsbridge Left Luggage 2.50pm, 6.50pm La Vie Revee Des Anges 4.40pm,

Festival phone for details

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) © Norting Hill Gate The Negotiator 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMPEN TOWN (08705 050007) & Camden Town Antz 12.55pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm The Negotiator 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 3pm. 5.55pm. 8.35pm Ronin 3.15pm. 6pm. 8.45pm Rush Hour 12.10pm. 2.20pm. 4.30pm. _6.40pm, 9pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705 050007) & Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm. 7 45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON Kensington Antz 72.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.30pm, 9.55pm Blade 6.50pm, 9.35pm Elizabeth 6.55pm out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Ronin 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.35pm Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm,

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705 050007) Leicester Square Ronin 12.35pm. 3.10pm.

5.45pm, 8.20pm **ODEON MARBLE ARCH** 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm Rush Hour 11.50am, 2.15pm, 4.40pm,

7.05pm. 9.30pm ODEON MEZZANINÉ

(08705 050007) ↔ Leicester Elizabeth 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm If only 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Snake Eyes 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705 050007) & Swiss Cottage Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Babe: Pig In The City 1pm, 3.30pm, 5pm, 8.25pm Elizabeth 12.10pm, 8.25pm Elizabeth 12.10pm, 5.50pm Left Luggage 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm out of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Ronin 3pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm,

6.30pm, 8.50pm ODEON WEST END (08705 050007) ← Leicester Square Les Misérables 2pm 5.30pm, 8.20pm Ronin 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (494 4153) ← Piccadilly Circus Across The Sea of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) 12.45pm, 5.05pm Everest 3pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm T-Rex: Back To The Cretaceous (3-D) 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm, 10.30pm

6.10pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm Twilight 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm,

(0171-837 8402) & Russell Square On Conneit La Chanson

1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The

Knowledge of Healing 4.05pm

6.25pm, 8,45pm

The Horse 1.50pm,

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR:© Broton Antz 7.35pm Buffalo 66 2pm.
7pm City of Lost Children
1.35pm It's A Wonderful Life
2.10pm, 4.50pm My Name Is Joe
3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm (+
Short: The Man Who held His Short: The Man Vino held His Breath) Out of Sight 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.75pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm The Truman Show 4.30pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) © Baker Street Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Out of Sight 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) & Highbury & Islington My Name Is Joe 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) & Belsize Park Dancing At Lughnasa 2.45pm. 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) Antz 2.50pm, 4.

Antz 2.50pm, 4.50pm Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 4.50pm, 6.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Blade 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Negotiator 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Out of Sight 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Primary Colors 8.40pm Ronin 6.50pm, 9.20pm Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm VIRGIN CHELSEA

Hour 2pm. 4.30pm. 7pm, 9 15pm VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-9070711) \varTheta Kensington Babe: Pig In The City 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Elizabeth 2pm, 5.30pm, B.20pm The Negotiator 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm A Perfect Murder 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Ronin

1,20pm, 4pm, 6,40pm, 9,20pm There's Something About Mary 2.15pm, 6pm, 8.50pm VIRGIN HAYMARKET

VIRGIN TROCADERO The Truman Show 1pm. 3.30pm,

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) & Leicester Square Blade 1 20pm. 4pm. 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 11.50pm, 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 9.25pm Mulan 11.20pm The Negotiator 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Rounders 5.55pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 1 50pm. 3.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.50pm, 7pm,

> CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

8.20cm, 9.30cm,

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 8 55pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 2.40pm, 3.50pm, 5.05pm, 6.05pm, 7.20pm, 8.20pm Blade 1 pm, 4pm. .40pm. 9.50pm The Negotiator 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 10pm Ronin 1pm, 3.30pm, 9.05pm Rush Hour 1.20pm, 3.05pm. 3.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.15pm, 7pm, 8.40pm, 9.30pm Snake Eyes 11.40pm There's Something About Mary 6.25pm

ODEON (08705 050007) @ Bark-ODEON (08705 050007) & Bark-ing Antz 12.10pm, 2.05pm, 4pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm Blade 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pmm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 12noon, 3.40pm, 7.20pm Out of Sight 5.55pm 8.30pm Rush Hour 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm 12ncon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm.

BARNET ODEON (08705 050007) + High

Barnet Antz 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.40pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm Blade 8 20pm Out of Sight 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Ronin 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm, 8.20pm, 8.20pm, 8.20pm, 8.20pm, 8.20pm 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm BECKENHAM ABC (0870 902 0412) BR: Beck-enham Junction Antz 12.20pm, 5pm, Jpm Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 2.20pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour 1 10pm, 3.50pm,

6.10pm, 8.50pm BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR Bekleyheath Antz 12,30pm, 2,30pm, 4,30pm, 5,30pm, 7,30pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.30pm, 1.15pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, 5pm. 1.15pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, 5pm, 6pm, 8.15pm Blade 2pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 9.30pm The Negotiator 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm Out of Sight 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Ronin 7pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour 12.20pm, 2.35pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 8.50pm, 9.40pm Saving Private Ryan 6.30pm There's Something About Mary 9.40pm The Truman Show 12noon, 2.25pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South Antz 2.05pm, 3.50pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Blade 5.55pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm,

CATFORD ABC (018)-698 3306) BR: Catford. Babe: Pig in The City 1pm, 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.15pm. 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CROYDON **CLOCKTOWER** (0181-253 1030) BR: Croydon West/Fast It's A Wonderful Life 12.15pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon Antz 5pm Babe: Pig In The City 6pm. 8pm Out of Sight 5.45pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 8.30pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 WARNER VILLAGE (0181-880 9090) BR: East Croydon Antz 12.40pm, 2.45pm, 5.05pm, 7.05pm, 9.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 2.10pm, 3.50pm, 4.45pm, 6.10pm, 7.20pm, 8.30pm Blade 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Negotiator 11.50am, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Out of Sight 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm 11.40pm, 80pm, 1.20pm, 8.45pm 11.40pm, 80pm, 1.20pm, 8.45pm 11.40pm, 80pm, 1.20pm, 8.45pm 11.40pm, 80pm, 1.20pm, 8.45pm, 11.40pm, 80pm, 1.20pm, 8.45pm, 11.40pm, 80pm, 80pm, 1.20pm, 80pm, 8.45pm 11.40pm Ronin 1.20pm, 4pm, 9.20pm Rush Hour 1.50pm.

4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm There' Something About Mary 6.40pm DAGENHAM

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) O Dagenham Heathway Antz 2,30cm, 4,40cm, 6,40cm, 8,40cm Babe: Pig In The City 1 30pm. 2.15pm, 4pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Blade 3pm, 15pm, 9.10pm The Negotiator 3 10pm, 6pm, 9.20pm Out Of Sight 12 50pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 15pm Ronin Prog 1.10pm. 4.10pm, 9.45pm Rush Hour 1pm, 1.50pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.20pm, 7pm. 9pm. 9.30pm Snake Eyes 8.50pm There's Something About Mary 7.05pm

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-907 0719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Antz 2pm, 4pm, 6.15pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5 45pm, 8pm Out of Sight 8.15pm

FALING

6.50pm, 9pm

EDGWARE BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) Edgware Bade Miyan Chote Miyan phone for times The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 5.15pm, 8.15pm Fire phone for times Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate Phone for details Kuch Kuch Hota Hai Phone for details Mehndi phone for times Pardeshi Babu Phone for

Rush Hour 2.15pm. 4.30pm.

EDMONTON LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) EE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-388990)

3-Tottenham Hale Antz Fri 2.05pm.
2.50pm. 4.10pm. 5.10pm. 6.40pm;
2.05pm. 2.20pm. 4.10pm. 4.40pm.
6.40pm. Sabe: Pig In The City
2pm. 3 30pm. 4.30pm. 6pm. 7pm.
8.30pm. Blade 2.10pm. 4.45pm.
7.20pm. The Exorcist (25th Anathropeus Borelman) 6.50pm. Model 7 20pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 6.50pm Ruch Ruch Hota Hai 9.40pm The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Player's Club 7.10pm, 9.50pm Ronin 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm, 9pm, 10pm Saving Private Ryan 8 50pm Small Soldiers 1.50pm, 4.20pm There's Something About Mary 9.55pm Twilight 4.50pm, 7.40pm, 10.20pm

FELTHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-CNEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Babe: Pig in The City 11am, 12noon, 1,20pm, 2 30pm, 3,40pm, 4,50pm, 5,50pm, 8pm Blade 1,45pm, 4,30pm, 7 10pm, 9,45pm China, 6ope, 1,50pm, 5,20pm China Gare 1.50pm 5.20pm, 8.50pm **Doli Sajake Rakhna** 11.30am, 2.45pm, 6pm, 9.30pm 2.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.45pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 1pm, 4 30pm, 8pm, 10pm Mehndi 11.30am, 6.20pm The Negotiator 1pm. 4pm. 7pm, 10pm Out Of Sight 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Pardeshi Babu 2.45pm, 9.55pm Ronin 7pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 7.30pm, 8,50pm. 9.50pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 12noon, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.25pm There's Something About Mary 9.55pm The Truman Show 11.15am, 1.40pm, 4.20pm

FINCHLEY

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 2.20pm, 3.20pm, 4.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.10pm, 8.30pm Blade 1 10pm, 3.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm Elizabeth 1.20pm The Negotiator 2.50pm, 6pm, 9.10pm Out of Sight 1.40pm. 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Ronin 4.05pm, 9.20pm, 9.20pm Rounders 9.30pm Rush Hour 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm There's Something About Mary 6.50pm

ROAD WARNER VILLAGE (0181-ROAD WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9977) & Finchley Road Antz 2pm. 4pm, 6pm. 8pm. 10,15pm Babe: Pig In The City 1,20pm. 2.15pm. 3-upm. 4.45pm. 6-30pm, 7.15pm. 9pm Blade 4.30pm, 10.10pm The Negotiator 1pm. 3.50pm, 6.50pm. 9.45pm Out of Sight 1.05pm. 3.50pm, 6.45pm. 9.30pm Rounders 2pm. 7.15pm. 10pm Rounders 2pm. 7.15pm. 10pm Rounders 2pm. 7.15pm, 10pm Rounders 2pm, 7.25pm Rush Hour 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.00pm

GREENWICH GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich The Negotiator 3.25pm. 6 15pm, 9 15pm Out of Sight 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9 05pm Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9 30pm

ABC (0870-902 0413) ⊕ Belsize Park Antz 1.40pm, 6.20pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8,40pm The Governess 3.40pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight

SAFARI (0181-426 0303) Harrow & Wealdstone Doli Sajake Rakhna 8.45pm Fire 7pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 8.45pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427

9009) O Harrow on the Hill Antz 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm Babe 11.40am, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.30pm Blade 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Elizabeth 1.20pm The Negotiator 11.20am, 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm Out of Sight 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Ronin 4pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 11.30am, 1.30pm, 2pm, 4pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 7pm, 9pm, 9.30pm Snake Eyes 9.50pm There's Something About Mary 6.50pm

ODEON (08705-Q50007) + Arch-

way Antz 1.40pm, 3.45pm. 5.45pm, 7.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Blade 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Exor-cist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 5.35pm, 8.26pm Out of Sight 12 25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Ronin 12.50pm, 3.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 12.05pm, 1.45pm, 2.20pm, 4pm, 4.35pm, 6.15pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm,

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar gast

ILFORD

ODEON (08705-050007) **Gants** Hill Antz 2.30pm, 4.25pm, 6.15pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Blade 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Ronin 8.10pm Rush Hour 2.50pm, 6pm.

KILBURN

TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) O Kilburn Dancing At Lughnasa 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON

ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston Antz 6pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.20pm, 3.50pm. 6.15pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 2.10pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

MUSWELL HOLL

ODEON (08705-050007) & Highgate Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Out of Sight 2.40pm, 5.50pm. 8.25pm Ronin 5.40pm, 8.20pm

PECKHAM

PREMIER (0181-235 3006) PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Antz 4,45pm Babe: Pig In The City 4,40pm. 6.55pm, 9.05pm Blade 4,30pm. 6.55pm, 9.25pm Elizabeth 7pm The Negotiator 3,25pm. 6,20pm, 9,15pm Out of Sight 3,45pm. 6.15pm, 9,05pm Ronin 9,10pm Best May 4,30pm, 70pm, 20pm, 20pm. Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

PURLEY ABC (0870-9020407). BR: Purley Antz 5.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 5.55pm. 8.30pm The Negotiator 8pm Rush Hour 5.25pm, 8.10pm

PUTNEY ABC (0870-9020401) + Putney Bridge. BR: Putney. Antz 5.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4pm. 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 2.15pm, 8.15pm Out of Sight

2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm RICHMOND ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond Babe: Pig In The City 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Out of Sight 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm,

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR/& Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm, Spm, 7pm Blade 9.10pm Dancing At Lughnasa 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Elizabeth 6.30pm The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Ronin 1pm, 3.40pm, 9pm

ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford. Antz 5.45pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm,

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007) BR: Romford Antz 12.30pr n, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig in The City 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Blade 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Negotiator 1.45pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Out Of Sight 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm nin 5.45pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm Small Sol-diers 12.50pm, 3.20pm There's Something About Mary 8.20pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Antz 6pm Babe: Pig In The City 5.45pm. 8.45pm Out of Sight

6.25pm, 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907 0717 BR: Cricklewood Antz 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm Blade 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm The Negotiator 2.40pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm in 9om, 12midnight Rush He 1pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415). BR: Streatham Hill Antz 2.15pm. 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 5.30pm, 8.20pm

ton/Clapham Common Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm. 8.20pm Blade 12.20pm, 3pm. 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Negotiator 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm,

STRATFORD NEW PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) NEW PICTORE HOUSE (355 3366) BR/9 Stratford East Antz 1pm Babe: Pig In The City 2.10pm. 4.25pm. 6.35pm, 8.45pm lt's A Wonderful Life 6.25pm The Negotiator 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 1.15pm, 3.50pm. 8.50pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 4.50pm 7pm, 9.10pm 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm

SURREY QUAYS

UCI (0990-888990) Surrey Quays Antz 2.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 2.40pm, 4.30pm, 5pm, 6.50pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm Blade 6pm, 8.40pm Elizbeth 5.50pm Mulan 1.45pm. 3.45pm The Negotiator 2.30pm. 5.30pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 4.10pm, 7pm, 10pm Ronin 9.15pm Rounders 9.50pm Rush Hour 2.10pm 3.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.15pm, 7.10pm, 8.55pm, 9.40pm Small soldiers 3.20pm There's Somethins About Mary 9pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sut-ton/— Morden Antz 12.55pm. 3pm. 5.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.40pm, 1.25pm, 3.15pm, 4.05pm, 5.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Blade 9.55pm Bizabeth 3.15pm. 6pm The Negotiator 9.05pm Out of Sight 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.40pm Ronin 7.10pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

ring Private Ryan 8.30pm TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519)

Turnpike Lane Antz 3.45pm.
5,40pm Babe: Pig In The City 4pm. 6,20pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 35pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

JIXERIDGE ODEON (08705 050007) O Uxbridge Antz 1.45pm, 3.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 2pm, 4,20pm, 6,40pm, 8,50pm Out of Sight

5.40pm, 8.20pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-902 0424) @ Walthamstow Central Antz 5pm Babe: Pig In The City 1,40pm, 3,45pm 5.15pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 2.15pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4рт, 6рт, 8.40рт

WALTON THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825). BR: Walton on Thames Dancing At Lughnasa 2.40pm. 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm The Horse Whisperer 2.50pm Out of Sight 6pm, 8.30pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351).BR: Eltham Antz 3,45pm, 5,40pm Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6,20pm, 8,30pm Out of Sight 8,35pm

WILLESDEN BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) O Willesden Green The Exprcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Wimbledon/⊕ South Wimbledon ıtz 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5pm Babe: Antz 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 4.05pm, Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Out of Sight 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Ronin 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.40pm 4pm, 6.30pm 8.50pm

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) O Tumpike Lane Kuch Kuch Hota Hai Spm Mehndi 1.30pm, 8.30pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) @ South Woodford Antz 2.25pm. 5.30pm Babe: Pig In The City I.25pm. 4pm. 6.20pm. 8.35pm Out of Sight 2.20pm. 8.10pm Ronin 8.10pm Small Soldiers 5pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm

<u>CINEMA</u> REPERTORY

CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2145) Majorettes In Space: Five Gay Tales From France (18) 7.30pm

ICAThe Mail SW1 (0171-930 3647) The Conversation (15) 5pm. 7pm Bernie 6.30pm, 8.30pm Das

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) The Land Girls (12) 2.30pm Way Out West & The Music Box (U) 6.15pm Fist Of Fury (aka The Chinese Connection): Bruce Lee 6.30pm Nautical Aviation: Museon Special Event 7.30pm The Philadelphia Story (U) 8.30pm Way Of The Dragon (aka Return Of The Dragon): Bruce Lee 8.45pm

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-444 6789) It's A Wonderful Life (U) 1.55pm + Short Left Luggage (PG) 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Leon (18) Ipm The Disappearance Of Finbar (15) 3.30pm The Big Lebowski (18) 6pm Scarface (1983 version) (18) 8.40pm

RIO Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 6677) The Land Girls (12) 2.30pm Yara 6.45pm Mira Ma Non Troppo (Nihavend Mucize)

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Stranger Than Paradise (15) 6.45pm Dead Man (18) 8.40pm WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High

Street (0181-568 1176) Left Lug-gage (PG) 5pm Divorcing Jack (15) 7pm Still Crazy (15) 9pm BRIGHTON **DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503)**

The Story Of The Late Chrysan themums (Zangiku Monogatari) 1.15pm The Eel (Unagi) (18)

CUBE (0114-907 4191) Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas (18) 7pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18) 9.30pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) My Name is Joe (15) 6pm La Vie Revée Des Anges (18) 6.05pm, 8.30pm Speak Like A Child 8.20pm

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Henry Fool (18) 2.30pm, 8pm Dance Of The Wind (U) 7.30pm

FILM THEATRE 01473-215544 Topless Women Talk About Their Lives (NC) 6pm. 8.15pm Furm Games (18) 6.15pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) My Name is Joe (15) 5.45pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

EASTBOURNE

CURZON (01323-731441); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig In The City (U); Out of Sight (15): Rush Hour (15) VIRGIN (0541-555159); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in The City (U); Blade (18); Lost in Space (PG): Mulan (U); The Negotiator (15); Out of Sight (15); The Parent Tirap (PG); Ronin (15); Rush Hour (15); Small Soleton Souare (PG) diers (PG): Washin

HARLOW ODEON (08705-050007); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in The City (U); Blade (18): Elizabeth (15): Mulan (U): Out of Sight (15); The Parent

CINEMA (0870-90 70 713): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig In The City (U); Blade (18): Godzilla (PG): Lost In Space (PG): Goothia (PG): Lost in Space (PG): Mulan (U): The Ne-gotlator (15); Out of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): Paulie (U); Rush Hour (15): Small Soldiers (PG)

PORTSMOUTHABC(01705-823538); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U); Out of Sight (15); Small Soldiers (PG);

There's Something About Mary (15) ODEON (08705-050007): Babe: Pig in The City (U): Barney's Great Adventure (U): Blade (18): Dr Dollttie (PG): Godzilia (PG): It's A Wonderful Life (U); Lost in Space (PG): Mulan (U); The Parent Trap (PG); Ronin (15); Rush Hour (15)

UCI 6 (0990-888990); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in The City (U): Blade (18): Dr Dollttle (PG): Elizabeth (15): The Exorcist (25th Anniver-(15): The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18): Freeriders (U): Mulan (U): The Negotiator (15): Out of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): Ronin (15): Rush Hour (15): Saving Private Ryan (15): Small Soldlers (PG): There's Something About Mary (15)

Something About Mary (15) WARNER VILLAGE (01923-Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of The Stropshire Lad. Theatre Royal, (15); Out Of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Ronth (15); Rush Hour (15); Small Soldiers (PG); There's Something About Mary (15) Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of The Stropshire Lad. Theatre Royal, (15); Out Of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Ronth (15); Rush Hour (15); Small Soldiers (PG); There's Something About Mary (15) \$10-E32.50.

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-day; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.
— Seats at all prices I — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matiness — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

) ALARMS & EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Glelgud Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Grc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

● AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 7616/ct 420 0000) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

● ANNIE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/O Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's co about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) & Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mlns.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the tenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins £35, 150 m

THE BEST OF TIMES Revue style show featuring the songs of Jerry Herman. Vaudewille Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/& Charing X. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £9.50-£27.50.

● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama about twins who are separated at birth. Phoenix Charing Separated at uru. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) • Leic Sq/fott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

DELUEBIRD AND THE SHOWING New drama telling the bleak and violent stories of a cabble's fares, preceded by a new short. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000)

Deic Sq. Wed-Sat, 9pm, 10p-£10, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night) £7.50-£15.

■ BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand. WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) & Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50. 150 mins.

● BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly featuring many of his most popular hits. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) & Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8pm. Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday iees. 160 mins.

DCATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) ⊕ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35. 165 mins.

O CHICAGO Hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi Maiden Lane. WCZ (01/1-344 0055) Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee).

CINDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) → Hammersmith. Today 1.30pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18, concs £6.50.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £6-£25, Thu mats - all seats £10.

■ DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Ham-mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) O Hammersmith.

Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50, 150 mins. ● FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls.

Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ← Leic So/Picc Circ, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm &

3.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 O FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timber-lake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Pic-cadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ. In rep tonight 8pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£30. 120 mins.

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film about life in an

American high school, Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30. 150 mins AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christo

pher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, E8-£29.50. 165 mins. INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen

Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Southein and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊕ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE TOIL YOUNG VIC STUDIO id Study of the power of appearance from Strathcona Theatre. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat today 1.15pm, ends 23 Dec. £8, concs £4. The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 6363) BR/ Waterloo.

O JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christ-mas show. Apolio Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ↔ Picc Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, [1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

LOVE UPON THE THRONE Tasteful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Cornedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) & Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm. [4][7] 3pm, ends 31 Jan, £6-£25.

) LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins.

) MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Modom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£35.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodumit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9-£23. 135 mins.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical, Her Majesty's Haymarket, 5W1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35.

DPHEDRE Diana Rigg stars in Ted Hughes' translation of Racine's tragedy. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 0171-867 1111) © Lelc Sq. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 12 Dec, £5-£29.50. RENT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Av-enue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Hol-born/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,

[4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 ROVAL NATIONAL THEATRE ● LYTTELTON: Betrayal Pinter's defining work depicts a menage a trois and stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas Hodge. In rep today 2.15pm & 7.30pm. 90 mins.

O COTTESLOE: Haroun And The Sea Of Stories Tim Supple's stage adaptation of Salman Rushdie's acelaimed novel. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 6 Jan. Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£19. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/& Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE BARBICAN: The Merchant Of Venice RSC production of Shakespeare's drama about love and money, in rep tonight 7.15pm, 180 mins. ey, in rep tonight 7.15pm. 180 mins.

O THE PIT: Shadows: Riders To
The Sea & The Shadow of The Glen
& Purgatory Triple-bill of drama by
WB Yeats and JM Synge. In rep,
tonight 7pm. Barbican Theatre: £5£26. The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican
Control 502. (2017) 639. 9991) Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/ Barbican/Moorgate.

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Gar-Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs' con-temporary classic Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) → Holborn/Temple. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £7.50-£32.50. STARLIGHT EXPRESS

Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria, Mon-Sat 7,45pm. [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins. THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) ⊕ Covent

Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£27.50. 140 mins. TRADE AND IN THE FAMILY Depiction of a dysfunctional family from Richard Oberg, Preceded by a short. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq. Wed-Sat 7.15pm. 10p-E10, double bill

(7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night) £7,50-£15. Whittington Follow the pen) THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane. WC2

(0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq/Char-ing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins. ● WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic ical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street. W1 (0171-447 5400) & Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. £15-£35. 160 mins.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. about two children who mistake an escaped convict for Jesus. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

• THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) ◆ Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins,

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

ALMEDA THEATRE The Storm Frank McGuinness' new version of Ostrovsky's uplifting drama. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3pm, ends 19 Dec. £6.50-£19.50. Almeida Street. N1 (0171-359 4404) Angel/High-

CANAL CAFE THEATRE Silent Night Steven Berkoff's tale of Christ-mas loneliness receives its stage premiere. Tue-Sat 8pm, ends 12 Dec. £6, concs £4. Bridge House Pub. De-lamere Terrace, W2 (0171-289 6054) & Royal Oak/Warwick Avenue.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Little Malcoim and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halliwell's drama. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 2 Jan, £9-£16, concs £6, Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) - Swiss Cottage.

WINDSOR THEATRE ROYAL Puss in Boots Ge-nial weatherman Ian McCaskill is joined by ponto veterans Rod Hull and Emu. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £6.50-£23, concs available, Thames Street (01753-853888)

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

IT HAS been quite a year for Garbage (right). Version 2.0 is already the year's sixth best-selling pop album, spawning the hit "I Think I'm Paranoid" and a tune on the best-selling PlayStation game, Gran Turismo. Despite being a four-piece band, attention has always focused on Shirley Manson's stand-out vocals and feisty interviews. However, the real Garbage is to be found in their collectively provocative and intelligent pop tunes. Birmingham NEC (0121-780 4133) 17 Jan; London Wembley Arena (0181-902 0902) 20 Jan; Manchester Evening News Arena (0161-930 8000) 22 Jan; Glasgow SECC (0141-248 7777) 23 Jan

Last Call

CONOR MCPHERSON'S acclaimed play, The Weir, has just gained an extended run thanks to its success at the Duke of York Theatre. McPherson places a magnifying glass on group dynamics when a stranger bewitches locals in a small bar in rural Ireland with tales of her supernatural experiences. Aside from intense characterisation, McPherson gives the audience a strong sense of Ireland's past in this remarkable work. Duke of York Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-836 5122) to 6 Feb

THEATRE

COUNTRYWIDE BATH THEATRE ROYAL Richard III Robert indsay stars as the historical villain. 9-12 Dec. 7.30pm, mat today 2pm.

BRACKNELL WILDE THEATRE Pinocchio Clas sic tale of the wooden puppet who dreams of becoming a real boy. To-day 10am & 1.30pm, ends 3 Jan. £10, concs £8. South Hill Park (01344-484123)

BRIGHTON GARDNER ARTS CENTRE The Wind in the Willows Kenneth Grahame's enchanting tale of riverlife is adapted for the stage. Today 10.30am & 2.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £6.96-£8.95, concs available versity of Sussex, Lewes Road (01273-685861)

CARDIFF SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret Seven Save the World New adven-ture, courtesy of Enid Blyton, and set in 1999. Today 10am & 2pm, ends 9 Jan. £6-£10, concs available. Senghenydd Road (01222-230451)

CHARLES CRYER STUDIO THEATRE King Arthur's Quest Join the young King Arthur and his beautiful wife Guinevere in their quest to defeat evil. Today 1.30pm & 4.30pm. continuing. £7, child £5.50, family £21. High Street (0181-770 4950)

CHELTENHAM EVERYMAN THEATRE Aladdin es, pagodas and antics in Peking, Today 2.15pm, ends 16 Jan. £4.50-£13. Regent Street

CHIPPING NORTON CHIPPING NORTON THEATRE ALI Baba and the 40 Thieves Panto taken from the Arabian Nights. To-day 2pm & 5pm, ends 16 Jan. £7.75-£14.75. Spring Street £14.75. Sp: (01608-642350)

CIRENCESTER SUNDIAL THEATRE AT CIRENCES-TER COLLEGE Love of the Nighth-gale Timberlake Wertenbaker's tale of lust and innocence is set in Ancient Greece. Tonight 7.30pm. E7, concs £5. Stroud Road (01285-654228)

EASTBOURNE

Country's Good Study of the civil-Country's Good Study of the civil-ising power of theatre by Timberlake Wertenbaker, performed by Out of Joint. Tonight 7.30pm. £6.50-£11. concs available. Compton Street (01323-412000) NORTHCOTT THEATRE Dick

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE OUR

hero as he searches for the streets paved with gold. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. E7-E15. Stocker Road (01392-493493) HORNCHURCH QUEEN'S THEATRE Dick White tington and His Kool Kool Kat Favourite songs from the 1960s and 1970s accompany this inter-galactic panto. Today 2.30pm & 6.30pm, con-tinuing. £6.50-£13. Billet Lane (01708-443333)

NEWBURY **CORN EXCHANGE Puss in Boots** Panto about the wily cat whose wheeling and dealing earns his master a fortune. Today 1.30pm & 6pm, ends 2 Jan. £10, concs £5,50-£8. Market Place (01635-522733)

PETERBOROUGH KEY THEATRE Dick Whittington and His Fabulous Cat Thrilling adventure story full of comedy, music and magic, Tonight 7pm, continuing £5,75-£9.75, concs available. Emment Road (01733-552439)

SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Aladdin Magic carpet ride to Peking and the land of Emperor Foo Wiff Pong. 9-1 Dec. 2.15pm, continuing. £8-£12.50, concs available. Malthouse Lane concs available. (01722-320333)

SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE Smokey Joe's Cafe - The Songs of Leiber and Stoller The rock'n'roll hit revue 9-10 Dec, 7.30pm, 11 Dec, 6pm & 9pm, 12 Dec, 2.30pm & 9pm, £10.50-£22.50. Commercial Road (01703-711811)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SWAN THEATRE Troilus and Cressida Shakespeare's depiction of the human spirit undermined by bloody warfare. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

PALACE THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Roy Hudd's Iamily panto. Today 2pm & 6.45pm, ends 9 Jan. £5-£13. Clarendon Road (01923-225671)

EXHIBITIONS

DE LA WARR PAVILION Picasso: Late Etchings Two series of etchings made in 1968 and 1969. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, closed 25 Dec., ends 3 Jan. free. (01424-787949)

> FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM From Polidoro to Salvator Rosa Collection of drawings and prints forming the best of Italian Baroque. Ends 23 Dec. British Watercolours from the Oppe Collection Including works by Turner and Constable. Ends 24 Jan. The Society of Three: Whistier, Fantin-Latour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints examining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 14 Feb, free. Trumpington Street

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES Kallghat Icons Watercolours chart-ing the last days of the British occupation of India. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm. ends 3 Jan. £4.25, concs £2.50, family £9.75 (to museum). Cathays Park (01222-397951)

(01223-332900)

NATIONAL GALLERY Mirror Image: Jonathan Miller on Reflection Mirrors and reflections in art from Van Eyck to Helen Chadwick. Ends 13 Dec. £5.50. concs £3.50. incl audio guide. Luca Signorelli in British Collections Drawings and paintings by the artist . Mon & Tue, Thur-Sat 10am-6pm.

Wed 10am-8pm, Sun 12noon-6pm (closed 24-26 Dec, 1 Jan), ends 31 Jan, free. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) & Charing Cross. NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY British Sporting Heroes Tracing sport in British culture from the 18th century to the present. Ends 24

lan. £4. copcs-£3 Gerald Scarfe at the NPG Political caricatures. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 6 Apr, free. Martins Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) Charing Cross.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Crit-

ical Mass: Antony Gormley Sixty casts of human bodies. Mon-Sun all day, ends 16 Dec. free Picasso: Painter and Sculptor In Clau Ceramic works by the 20th-cenbury artist. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sur 10am-6om, Frl 10am-8,30om, ends 16 Dec. £7, OAP/UB40 £6, NUS £5. child 12-18 £2.50. child 8-11 £1. 100 Masterpieces of Imperial Chinese Ceramics from the Au Bak Ling Collection Porcelain from the Sing, Yuan, Ming and Quing dynas-ties. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-6pm, ends 20 Dec. £3. concs £2.50. child (8-18) £1. Life? Or Theatre?: The Work of Charlotte Salomon Powerful paintings made between 1940 and 1942.

Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 1 Qam-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan. £5.50, UB40/OAP £4.50, NUS £4, child 12-

18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000) ⊕ Green Park. SERPENTINE GALLERY Louise Bourgeois Sculpture and installation by the major French artist. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, ends 10 Jan, free. Kens-ington Gardens, W2 3 (0171-402

TATE GALLERY Turner Prize 1998 Work by Chris Ofili, Cathy De Mon-chaux, Tacita Dean and Sam Taylor-Wood. Ends 10 Jan. £1.50. John Singer Sargent Comprehensive exhibition devoted to the paintings of the 19th-century artist. Ends 17 Jan. 56. concs £4.

Art Now 16: Something is

Missing - Jean-Marc Bustamante In-stallation exploring international cities in photographs. Ends 31 Jan. free. Turner in the Alps Works on paper made on Turner's first Alpine trip in 1802. Ends 14 Feb. free. In Celebration: The Art of the Country House Paintings and sculp-ture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Mon-Sun 10am-

5.50om, ends 28 Feb. free A SW1 (0171-887 8000) @ Pimlico. VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Aubrey Beardsley The illustrator's life and work explored in 200 draw-ings and prints. Ends 10 Jan. Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving Celebrating the work of the 17th-century woodcarver. Ends 24 Jan. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 31 Jul. E5, concs £3, under 18's, free for unwaged, disabled, mems and all entries between 4.30pm and 5.45pm, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938

8441) South Kensington. WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERY ROSmarie Trockel Mixed media works by the influential artist, including the Wool Works and the Henhouse Project. Tue, Thur-Sun 11am-5pm, Wed 11am-8pm, ends 7 Feb, free. 11am-8pm, ends 7 Feb, free. Whitechapel High Street, E1 (0171-522 7888) & Aldgate East.

ST IVES
ST IVES
TATE GALLERY Displays
1998-9: Partnerships and Practice
Paintings and ceramics from the
second half of the century. second had of the century.

English Roots: Eric Cameron Layers
of paint surrounding organic objects.

Outlet Montserrat: Veronica Ryan
Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Montserrat in the West Indies. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

ST IVES

CLASSICAL

CORN EXCHANGE London Sinfonletta/Masson Joined by percussionist Evelyn Glemie in Xe-nalcis, Kagel and Piazzolla. Tonight 7.30pm. £12, concs £6. Wheeler Street (01223-357851)

BARBICAN HALL LSO/Davis Elgar's tone poem Falstaff with his 1st Symphony. Tonight 7.30pm. E6.50-E32. Barbican Centre, ECZ (0171-638 8891) & Moorgate. ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE OFchestra of St.John's, Smith

music and Ravel's Mother Goose Suite. Tonight 7.30pm. £10-£20. Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) O Westminster WIGMORE HALL Hilary Hahn ViowigMore HALL Hilary Hain var-lin recital including Brahms and Beethoven Sonatas. Tonight 7.30pm. £B-£15. Wigmore Street. W1 (0171-935 2141) & Bond Street.

Square/Lubbock Tchair

OPERA

LONDON COLISEUM La Traviata Verdi's great Realist tragedy in English National Opera's acclaimed staging, Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£55. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) O Leicester Square.

DANCE

OUFFN FLIZARETH HALL V-Tol Dance Company: ...And Nothing But The Truth... Mark Murphy's choreography looks at murder through live action and film. Tonight 7.45pm. £10-£14, concs £6-£12. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960

4242) BR/& Waterloo. ROUNDHOUSE Stomp Eight performers create a witty rhythmic symphony. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 4pm, ends 27 Dec. £10-£25.

PIYMOUTH THEATRE ROYAL Rambert Dance Company: Cruel Garden Evocation of the life and work of Federico Garcia Lorca, Tonight 7,30pm. £14-£20. Royal Parade South (01752-

LITERATURE CAMBRIDGE ROBERT RANKIN, PETER F HAMILTON AND COLIN GREEN-LAND Three award winning science liction and fantasy writers read from their work. Waterstone's

Bookshop Bridge Street (01223-300123) Tonight 7pm, £3, £2 adv. ANTHONY MINGHELLA Talk about -making and filmgoing. Burgh use New End Square NW3 (0171-431 0144) O Hampstead. Tonight

7.30pm. £8, booking essential. HOT AND COLD - CHRISTMAS COMMISSIONS Writers such as including Esther Freud and Duncan McLean read specially commis-sioned short stories. Voice Box, Royal Festival Hall South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/\(\theta\) Waterloo. Tonight 7.30pm, £4. concs £2.50.

COMEDY

THE COMEDY STORE The Comedy Store Players with Lee Simpson, Jim Sweeney, Richard Vranch, Steve Frost, Andy Smart, Neil Mullarkey. Ionight 8pm, Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426-914433) & Piccadilly Circus. \$11. NUS 57

£11. NUS £7. STEVE COOGAN - THE MAN WHO THINKS HE'S IT AT LYCEUM THE-ATRE Sublime character cornedy from the face behind Alan Purtridge. Tonight 7.45pm, Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-656 1802) ← Charing Cross, £14.50-£25 plus booking fee.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST TEDIUM AT ICA Simon Munnery's alter ego pours forth Tonight 8.30pm, The Mall. SW1 (0171-930 3647) O Charing Cross, phone for prices

CLUBS

LONDÓN STARSKY AND HUTCH UPSTAIRS AT RONNIE SCOTT'S Much-loved 1970s disco, fink and rare groove club. Tonight 10pm-3am, Frith Street. W1 (0181-654 0523) ⊕ Leicester Square, £6, NUS £4.

mems £3. LIVE AT THE SPITZ An evening of electrifying sights and sounds. Tonight 8pm-12mldnight. Commercial Street, E1 (0171-392 9032) O Liverpool Street, £3, free w/flyer

JOI PRESENTS MELA AT THE DOGSTAR Asian breakbeat from Rhute (Cert 18). Tonight 9pm-2.30am. Coldharbour Lane. SW9 (0171-733 7515) O Brixton, free.

EVENTS

RADIO 1

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6.30 Zoe

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Evening 3

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RADIO 3

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CARDIF NO FIT STATE CIRCUS Explosive encounter between state-of-the-art technologies and circus drama from high-wire to high-tech, bangra to rap, fire to ice. Includes Communi-ty Music Wales, Riverside Community Music Wales, Riverside Commo-nity Bangra Group, Brazilian Dance, The Underdogs and Circus Eruption. Curran Embankment Cardiff Bay (01222-488734) 7.30pm, ends 12 Dec. £6, concs £3.50. Fri. Sat £8,

concs £4.50. LONDON POP IN AND PAINT CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Create your own original decorations. The Art Workshop Rosemont Road NW3 (0171-431 5696) ← Finchley Road. Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, ends 23 Dec.

SWINDON COUNTRY HOUSE CHRISTMAS A chance to see a Victorian style Christmas with the State Rooms decked in greenery gathered from the Park. Lydiard House Lydiard Country Park (01793-770401) Mon-Fri 10am-1pm, 2pm-4pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 31 Dec. 80p, child 30p.

> MUSIC POP

BRIGHTON JAMES, STEREOPHONICS Tim Booth's seminal Mancunian popsters push their successful hits um and remain a surprisingly potent force in the post-Britpop era. Brighton Centre Kings Road (0870-900 9100) Tonight 8pm. £16.

BRISTOL NEW MODEL ARMY Justin Sullivan's long-running strident rock-ers tour their recent album, Stronge Brotherhood, Anson Rooms, Bris 27 tol University Queens Road (0117-1 954 5800) Tonight 8pm, £11. CARDIFF

CULTURE CLUB, HUMAN LEAGUE, ABC A starry line-up goes back to the 1980s. Cardiff International Arena Mary Ann Street. Butetown (01222-

THE KING Post-modern singing impersonator singing contemporary numbers by dead pop stars delivered in an authentic Elvis style. The J prov Tottenham Court Road (0171-387 2414) Warren Street. Tonight 7.30pm, £8.50. RIALTO, SPEARMINT Dark alt-pop

from the suave bill-top, promoting their self-titled debut album on Chi-

na Records. LA2 Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 0403) + Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8pm. M PEOPLE, LYNDEN DAVID HALL MOR pop-soul outfit featuring the dis-tinctive vocals of Heather Small. Wembley Arena Empire Way, Wem-

oley (0181-902 0902) & Wembley Park. Tonight 7pm, £22.50. PORT TALBOT LEVELLERS, THE CROCKETTS The counter-culture heroes of folk olemic. Afan Lido Princess Margaret Way (01639-884141) Tonight

MUSIC

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK ART THEMEN QUARTET Modern jezz

tenor sax player Eastside Jazzclub at Heathcote Arms Grove Green Road E11 (0181-988 0011) + Leytonstone. Tonight 8pm, phone for prices. JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET Funky R&B outfit fronted by the acid-jazz king of the Hammond organ. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) & Camden Town. Tonight

8.30pm, £16, adv £13.50. JUWON OGUNGBE AND THE AFRICAN CONNECTION Nigerian band playing a hypnotic synthesis of African rhythms with Western funk and jazz. Purcell Room South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo. Tonight 8pm. £12.50, concs £10.

SCOTT HAMILTON QUARTET American tenor player leading the current US swing revival Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street WI (0171-439 8722)

Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 9pm, £15.

CLEO LAINE AND JOHN DANKWORTH Cabaret from Britain's leading jazz couple, Pizzza on the Park. Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) → Hyde Park Corner, Tonight 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £30.

TAUNTON SECTION FIVE Modern jazz from upand-coming Dorset based band. Taunton Jazz Club at Cafe Mamba High Street (01823-354955) Tonight 8pm, £4.

BOYS OF THE LOUGH Respected long-running Celtic folkers, still a dynamic live act. Dartington Arts Centre Dartington Hall (01803-863073) ionight 8pm, phone for prices.

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TOTNES

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(932644). 11.20 We Film: 800 Silence (Mars 24) ANGLIA As Carl

News and Second (

2.00 Clive Warren, 4.00 - 6.30

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barraclough, 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show. 10.00 Route 66 Revisited. See Pick of the Day. 10.30 Richard Allinson, 11.45 Following My Star, 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Choral Evensong. **5.00** in Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor Trevor Pinnock, Rosa Mannion (soprano), John Mark Ainsley (tenor), Alan Ewing (bass), BBC National Chorus of Wales, Haydn:

The Creation. 9.40 Postscript. Four illustrated reflections on kitsch. 3: Roger Scruton, visiting professor of philosophy at Birkbeck, argues that kitsch is a corrupt reflection of a society without genuine values, and one which fatally undermines

10.00 Ensemble. The second of two programmes in which Penny Gore investigates how Mozart,

Haydn and Beethoven responded upper-class patronage. Mozart:
-iolin Sonata in G, K379. Krzysztof Smietana, Caroline Palmer (piano). Beethoven: Cello Sonata in D, Op 102 No 2. Louise Hopkins, Aleksander Madzar (piano).

PICK OF THE DAY

MANY PEOPLE have been put off his work at secondary school. One of the problems, according to Golden Lads and Girls (11am R4), is that they started too late. This feature looks at taking Shakespeare into junior schools, and shows very young children coping without much trouble, and enjoying it. Mark Rylance (right) is the presenter.

11.30 Jazz Notes

192.4-94.6MHz FM

6.00 Today, 9.00 NEWS; Midweek.

Mozart. (R)

RADIO 4

12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

9.45 Serial: Charles Dickens:

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question

Girls. See Pick of the Day.

11.30 Funny Bones.

1.00 The World at One.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.15 The Golden Triangle.

3.30 Coffee - a Hellish Brew

3.45 Saving Mr Ugwu. 4.00 NEWS; Case Notes.

4.30 Thinking Allowed.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

5.00 PM.

12.57 Weather.

1.30 Wildbrain.

11.00 NEWS: Golden Lads and

Education 2000 (8pm R4) is Shakespeare after encountering a new series of "forums" on planned changes to the schools system. This first programme concentrates on arguments about teaching standards.

Nick Barraclough gets his kicks in Route 66 Revisited (10pm R2), following the great highway through the heart of America in seven programmes. ROBERT HANKS



6.30 Booked. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 10.45 Night Waves. The history of western civilisation and the sto-7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson ry of its cities have been inextricachairs the arts programme. In this bly linked, from ancient Athens and Rome to London and Los Anedition, he investigates the probgeles today. Cities have been crulems of actors making the leap from television celebrity to Holly-wood stardom, as 'X Files' star cial centres of creativity, but what makes one thrive as another goes David Duchovny returns to British into decline? Patrick Wright talks to Peter Hall, whose epic new cinemas this week in his new film, 'Playing God'. 7.45 Still Waters. By Sergio Casci. study 'Cities in Civilisation' takes on some of the most ambitious questions in cultural history.

Joanna and Douglas investigate the desecration of a local church. Meanwhile, Kate attempts to come to terms with Philip's abrupt departure. With Ann Scott-Jones, Emma Currie and Liam Brennan. Director David Jackson

Young (23/25). 8.00 NEWS; Education 2000. A forum which tests plans to improve the country's education system by the early years of the next century. Edward Stourton asks the panel and invited guests whether teachers are the villains or the victims of the education system. See Pick of the Day. 8.45 Better than Sex. Four writ-

ers celebrate a single, readily available sensual experience which gives them intense plea-sure. 4: Celia Brayfield on Jason and the Buttercups. 9.00 NEWS; Costing the Earth. Another groundbreaking environmental issue. 9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversa-

10.00 The World Tonight. With

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Spider web. By Penelope Lively, read by Stephanie Cole (3/10).

11.00 Children's Hour., with Armstrong and Miller. Craig Children and Martin Baln-Jones, alias comedy writers and actors Ben Miller and Alexander Armstrong, are the culture journalists with a mission to explain and, if possible, complicate. Not suitable for children. With Charlie Condou and Melissa

11.30 4 at the Store. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Human

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. **7.30** John Inverdale's Football

est round of matches in the European Champions' League. in Group D, Manchester United are at home to Bayern Munich, whilst in Group E. Arsenal travel to Greece to face Panathinalkos. Plus the National Lottery Draw. 10.00 Littlejohn. Football phonein with Richard Littlejohn: 0500

11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson, including a late news briefing at 1100, and at 1115 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Balley. 8.00 Henry Kelly: Including 9.00 A selection from the Hall of Fame. Plus Henry's High Flyer, a racing tip and Record of the Week. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto: Berlioz: Harold in Italy. Nobuko Imai (vio-lin), LSO/Colin Davis. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Spohr: Nonet in F. Czech Nonet. Farrence: Nonet in E flat. Ambache Chamber Orchestra. Trojan: Nonetto Favoloso. Czech Nonet. Handel: Chandos Anthem. The Sixteen/Harry Christophers. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Bobby Hain / FM only Harriet Scott from 6.45. 7.30 Harriet Scott. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 James Merritt, 4.30 - 6.30 Jere-**WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Omnibus. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian (Books). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Brain of Britain. 4.00-7.00 World Today. TALK RADIO

6.00 Bill Overton and Clare Catford. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 Night. Featuring coverage of all the sports Zone. 8.00 James the night's action, including the lat-

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

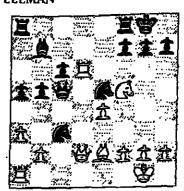
CHESS PLAYERS, in the public view at least, tend to have something of the mad professor about them. While this is seldom true – a jacka) would be a better metaphor in many cases - we do occasionally bumble: as witness the Italian contingent in the recent Andorra Zonal.

I last saw Igor Efimov, Michele Godena and Ennio Arlandi at Barcelona airport after the trip back there from Andorra towards the end of last month. In reality, insofar as I know them, three nice, sensible people - but it had nevertheless afforded the three English players travelling through Barcelona – Mark Hebden, John Emms and myself - if not a minimal degree of schadenfreude, at least some mildly puerile pleasure when we outperformed them on both legs

of the journey. On the way, we happened to meet them in the airport; but they then wandered off and missed the admittedly well hidden and surprisingly punctual bus. When returning, not entirely believing our story that we were to be picked up at the hotel, they had the inconvenience of first having to take a taxi to the bus station.

The three were all in action again less than a week after the zonal in the Italian Championships in Saint Vincent which ran from 21 to 29 November: Although Godena beat Elimov in the first round it was still the ex-Russian who ended up first on 6.5/9. He was followed by Godena and Bruno Belotti on 6; while Arlandi finished disappointingly in the middle of the field.

An extremely sensible player, Elimov also used the Meran against me in Andorra though instead of 6... Bd6 he tried 6... b6. After 7 Be2 Bb7 8 0-0 Bd6 9 e4?! dxe4 10 Nxe4 Nxe4



11 Qxe4 Nf6 12 Qc2 c5 13 Qa4+ Qd7 14 Oxd7+ Nxd7 Black was already slightly better and I was relieved to draw 10 moves later.

16 Bf4 looks better since after 16.Nf5 Qc7 17.Bf4 would now allow 17... Nf3+! 18 Bxf3 Qxf4. Of course White must recapture in the diagram, probably with 22 bxc3. Arlandi was expecting 22... Nxe2+? 23 Kh1 Ng6 (23... g6 24 Ne7+ forces mate) 24 Nh6+! gxh6 25 Qxc5 winning the queen. Instead 22... Qxf2+! was decisive since if 23 Kxf2 Nxe4+.

White: Ennio Arlandi Black: Igor Efimov Queen's Gambit Meran

1 d4 e6 2 c4 d5 17 Be3 Bxe3 18 Nxe3 Qb6 3 Nc3 c6 4 e3 Nd7 19 Rd6 Oc5 20 Qd2 Nd5 5 Qc2 Ngf6 21 Nf5 Nxc3 6 Nf3 Bd6 7 Bd3 dxc4 (see diagram) 22 Qg5? Qxf2+! 8 Bxc4 b5 9 Be2 Bb7 23 Khi Ng6 10 0-0 0-0 24 bxc3 Qxe2 11 Rd1 Qe7 25 b4 Bc8 12 a3 a5 26 h5 f6 27 Nh6+ gxh6 13 e4 e5 14 dxe5 Nxe5 0-1 15 Nd4 Bc5

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMER 6.00 Coccon (1985) (83199), 8.00 After Jimmy (1996) (99977), 10.00 On the Secnd Day of Christmas (1997) (75712). .00 Cocoon (1985) (12828). 2.00 Juseph (1995) (14625), **4.00** After Jimmy (1996) (4267), **6.00** On the Second Day of Christmas (1997) (13118). 7.30 Barry Norman's Film Night (9828) 8.00 What Rats

(1996) (212809). 11.40 Moli Flanders (1996) (10369557), 1.45 The Avenging Angel (1995) (724652). 3.25 - 6.00 Strictly Business (1991) (22637126). SKY MOVIEMAX 6.00 Terror in the White House (1997) (79481809), 7.45 Sweet Revenge (1990) (515286), 9.45 Miracle on 34th Street (1973) (44184731). 11.00 Battle for the of the Apes (1973) (15151), 1,00 Address Unknown (1996) (15915), **3.00** Terror in the White House (1997) (15712), 5.00 Sweet Revenge (1990) (53002). **7.00 Mra-**cte on 34th Street (1973) (20335). **9.00**

Defenders: The Payback (1997) (52985), 11.00 Nico (1988) (849002), 12.40 Set it Off (1996) (91659107). 2.45 - 6.00 Sugar Hill (1995) (71761331). 4.00 Carefree (\$38) (783095), 6.00 Double Dynamite (1951) (9246977). 8.00 The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean (1972) (9241422). 10.00 O Lucky Mari 1973) (64559828). 12.55 The Lernon Drop Kid (1951) (4846774). 2.30 Sherlock Holmes and the Pearl of Death (1944) (92143942) 3.40 - 6.00 Zorba the Graek

(23101045). MIFOUR 6.00 The Century of Cinema: Typically British (2022151), 7.20 Stranger Left No Card (4648915), 8.00 My Beautiful Laundrette (1965) (2378335). See Pick of the Day 10.00 The Driver (1978) (3738373). 11.30 Metal Skin (1994) (3739002). 1.30 Trainspotting (1996) (6480565), 3.00 Shallow Grave (1994) (70-12229), 4.30 - 6.00 Godziła vs Mechagodziła (1993) (3301774)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL 4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing World (8282538). 4.30 Walker's World (8271422). 5.00 Flight Deck (2631731). **5.30** Jurassica (8295002). **8.00** Animal Doctor R292915), **6.30** Meerkats: A Kalahari Saga (Wild Discovery) (2752828), 7.30 Beyond 2000 (8272151), 8.00 How Did They Build That? (2637915). 8.30 Animal X (2616422). **9.00** The Unexplained 4995(70). **10.00** Empire of the East

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PICK OF THE DAY

DANIEL DAY-LEWIS (right) is launderette owned by Omar's films green-lighted. It all started for him with My Beautiful Launderette (8pm FilmFour), Stephen Frears' memorable low-budget production of Hanif Kureishi's Oscar-nominated schoolfriend, Omar (Gordon Second World War. Warnecke). Together they run a

now a movie star, the sort of dodgy uncle, Nasser (Saeed actor whose name can get big Jaffrey). With its often humorous this is one of the quintessential

script about the relationship as a journalist to manufacture a between an ex-skinhead, mythic air for himself as leader Johnny (Day-Lewis) and former of Italy before and during the

JAMES RAMPTON

(5905557). **11.00** Real Lives: Girlz 'n' the Hood (9268903). **12.00** Nightlighters (1583671). **1.00** Flight Deck (91 1.30-2.00 Ancient Warriors (9361855). SKY ONE 7,00 The Simpsons (48731). 7.30 The

Chris Evans Breakfast Show (49064) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (43625), 9.00 Guilty1 (90129). 10.00 Sally Jess Raphael (23422). 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (43286). 12.00 Jenny Jones (8968793). 12.55 The Special K Collection (53089828). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (9049002). 1.55 The Special K Collection (77391915). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (6875809). **2.55** The Special K Collection 74064). **3.00** Jenny Jones (774228 3.55 The Special K Collection (8305712). 4.00 Guilty! (90557) 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1793). 6.00 Married with Children (6354). 6.30 Friends (7606), 7.00 The Sympsons (2422), 7.30 Real TV (6118). 8.00 Stargate SG-1 (84080), 9.00 The X Files (22644), 10.00 llennium (25731). **11.00** Friends (91286). 11.30 Star Treic: Deep Space Nine (11996). 12.30 Renegade (13519). 1.30 -

7.00 Long Play (4839923) SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (8541731). 735 Golf - Times Mees Pierson (370915), 8.15 Sky Sports Centre (8792422), 8.30 Racing News (78422). **9.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (92002). **9.30** The Footballers' Football Show (64460). 10.30 Inside Scottist

portrayal of a divided society. pictures of 1980s Britain. Tonight's Biography (7pm

History Channel) shows how Benito Mussolini used his skills

Football (45847). 11.30 Fastrax (17248). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (89538). 12.30 Rugby Union (18880), 2.00 Sports Unlimit-ed (40625), 3.00 Subcero Snowboarding (7373). 3.30 Inside Scottish Football (51996). 4.30 The Footballers' Football ing (6373). **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (3286). **6.30** Unibelievable Sports (4538). 7.00 Pool (66002), 8.00 Budweiser Bas ketbal (53538). **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (385625). **10.15** Pool (705847). **11.15** Unbelievable Soorts (192064), 11.45 Sky Sports Centre (321915), 12.00 Ringsid (34687), 1.30 Pool (29403), 2.30 Sky Sports Centre (4390671). 2.45 Close.

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3703538). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (5022828). 7.45 Racing News (8276296), 8.15 Fastrax (648741), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (671718), 9.00 Fish TV The Utitmate ina Shaw (2660064). **9.30** Fish TV Fishing (3711557). 11.00 Sports Unimited (3791793): 12.00 Showjumping - Spruce Meadows Horse Diaries (3755847): 1.00 Golf Extra (8914118), 4.00 Badminton (8075422). **5.00** Watersports (2204688) **6.00** World Sport (3744731). **7.00** Golf Extra (1200809), 10,00 Sub-Zero Snow-boarding (2681557), 10,30 World Sport (888257). 11.30 Figure Skaling (5167847). 1.30 Basketball (7719590). 3.30 Sky Sports Centre (84666229). 3.45 Close.



SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 World Windsurfing (74\$82625) 12.30 V-Max (48324995), 1.00 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (94501064), 1.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (48323267). 2.00 Superhouts Roberto Duran v Este ban de Jesus (85831199), **3.00** Olympic Series Olympic Destinies (67078002). 3.30 Watersports World (40595731). 4.30 World Windsurfing (93177151). 5.00 Figure Skating (74503118). 7.00 Fish TV Fishing Texas (67060083). 7.30 Fish TV Americana Outdoors (93178880), 8.00 Ringside (65672625), 9-00 Unbellevable Sports (65692489), 10-00 Olympics: Sports Classics Golf - 1991 US Masters (14329809), 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT Z30 Cross-Country Sking (81064), 8.30 Footbal: UEFA Cup (4888083), 12.30 Speedworld (34731). 1.30 Saling Magazine (3218), 2.00 Snooker: German Masters in Bingen (56625). 4.00 Football (3557). 6.00 Nordic Combined Sking (18538). 7.00 Snooker: German Massiers in Bingen (77267) 9.00 Daris (57354) 10.00 Boxing (50441) 11.00 Boxie (26966) 11.30 Speedworld (46606) 12.30 Close. UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (9468101). 7.30 Neighbours (4729625), 7.55 EastEnders (4135002), 8.30 The Bit (8441422), 9.00 The Sill (8465002), 9.30 The House of Eliatt (9530996), 10.30 Angels (8461286).

11.00 Dalas (3875996), 11.55 Neighbours (32224847), 12.25 EastEnders (2658996) 1.00 Julet Brevo (7714181) (2000) 1446 June Sant (7774) 2.00 Dalles (698835), 2.55 The Bill (2340286), 3.25 The Bill (6557286), 3.55 EastEnders (8833642). 4.30 Angels (8273880). 5.00 Ali Creatures Great and Small (2629996), 8.00 Due South May to December (2138915). 7.40 The Cornedy Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (9423967). 8.20 The Comedy Aiternative: Dad's Army (7621170). 9.00 One Foot in the Greve (5321354). 9.40 Silent Witness (7616129), 11.35 The Bill 4821151). **12.05** The Bill (41635 12.35 Spender (287)836), 1.30 Danger field (3949584). 2.25 Only when I Laugh 44651590). 2.55 - 7.00 Shopping with Screenshop (48178855),

6.00 Tiny Living (9850915). 9.00 The Roseanne Show (465344). 9.50 The Jarry Springer Show (5498644). 10.40 Michael Cole (3609002). 11.30 Brooksids (1536354), 12.00 Living issues (3697335). 30 Rescue 911 (1177996). 1.00 Beyond Bellef: Fact or Fiction (1985199), 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (7015538), 2.05 Rolanda (4485606), 2.55 Living it Up! (412319), 3.55 The Jerry Springer Snow (9184373), 4.45 Tempesit (7185199), 5.35 Cen't Cook, Worl't Cook (8412538), 6.40 The Jerry Springer Show (6132335). 7.00 Rescue 911 (7819422), 7.30 Beyond Belief Fact or Fiction (1495538), 8.00 Ally McGeel (9945248), 9.00 Haffex FP (9248335). 11.00 The Spicy Sex Files (1962248), **12.00** Close

9.00 Wise Guys (1985) (65673354), 11.00 Trial (1955) (33555489), 12.45 The Law and Jake Wade (1958) (39149923), 2.15 VI-3.45 The Mask of Fu Manchu (1932) (85285039), 5.00 Close,

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (7996). 7.30 Desmond's (1064). 8.00 Roseanne (6644). 8.30 Just thoot Me (5151). 9.00 Cytoll (27625). 9.30 Seinfeld (26557), 10.00 Frasia (88809). 10.30 Cheers (97557). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (22170). 11.30 The Larry with David Letterman (77126), 1,00 Taxi Katz (98855). 2-30 Soap (73590). 3.00

BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

FREAKISH HANDS are always difficult to bid accurately - most textbooks skate round the best way to deal with bands like South's on

this deal. Fortunately, North-South had

some machinery... South opened Four Diamonds the so-called South African Texas -showing a good Four Spade opening with either solid spades or a one-loser suit with an outside control. North's response of Four Hearts showed interest but no con trols in hearts (!). South could oblige in that department and, rather lazily, for North might have been even stronger, he jumped to

the spade slam. West led ♥K against Six Spades and, after winning in hand, declarer drew trumps by leading the queen to dummy's king. His very first move brought instant success when he led \$5 from dummy - just as he would have done if he had held the singleton queen. East fell for it by going in

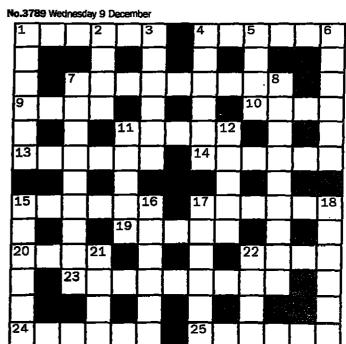
with his ace, and it was all over. "Suppose I play low on the dia-

Game all; dealer South North **◆**K63 2952 ♦KJ5 **♣**A K J.10 East **45 49** ... αKQJ ₹10874 ♦Q732 OA 109864 **4**97643 **Q**5 **◆**AQJ108742 ~A 6 3 ♦ none **482**

finesse in clubs?" South had his answer ready. "No. I play off + AK. planning to take the ruffing finesse for a heart discard. That would be better than the straight finesse, as it caters for the doubleton CQ in either hand."

This was good news for East, who no longer had to search for an mond?" asked East. "Do you alibi to explain his play at trick 3.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Comfort (6) Slogger (6) Ingredient of salad dips (4.5) Aquatic bird (4) 10 Type (4) 11 Abyss (5)

13 Illness (6) 14 Evening party (6) 15 In whatever way (6) 17 Dance (6) 19 Army officer (5) 20 Drop of perspiration (4) 22 Territorial detachment? (4) 23 Actors' facility (5,4) 24 Down-at-heel (6) 25 Pass (6)

DOWN

Infrequently (6) In a frenzied state (4) Crude (6) Trouble persistently (6) Hard wood (4) Conundrum (6) Rascal (9) Miniature representation (9) Computer disc (2-3) Grinding tooth (5) Convent superior (6) 16 Thin (6) 17 Rough (6) 18 Sewing implement (6) 21 Dingy (4) 22 Greek letter (4) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

1

ACROSS: I Hint, 3 Ricochet (Intricacy), 9 Repel, 10 Postman, 11 Hod. 13 Excursion, 14 Pectin, 16 Gently, 18 Impromptu, 20 Dub, 22 Turition, 23 Durer, 25 Renegade, 26 Aged, DOWN: I Harsh, 2 Nap, 4 Impact, 5 Observe, 6 Ham-fisted, 7 Tenancy, 8 Glec. 12 Deception, 14 Pointer, 15 Ironing, 17 Opened, 19 Urdu, 21 Bored, 24 Rag.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newstine 6.30 (828). BBC1 SCOTLAND

As 8BC1 London except: 12.25 Dotaman (3860151). 12.40 Sgeulachdan Am-Cadal (73344335). 12.45 Orain Am-Canal (73244335), 12,45 Oraln agus Rannan (73243606), 6,00 News (248), 6,30 Reporting Scotland; Weath er (826), 9,30 War and Piste (48286), 10,00 Ex-S (84058), 10,30 Film: Boomerang (27379828), 12.15 Weird Science (40632), 12.45 Joins BBC

RECT WALES AS BBC1 WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (825, 10.15 The Challenge (93:644), 10.45 War and Piste (874880), 11.20 Welsh Questions (577847), 11.50 Film: Boomerang (612170). 1.40 West of Sence (9821294). 2.05 Joins BBC NL .vs 24 (94349749).

ANGLIA
As Certion except: 12.20 Angle
News and Weather (6172199). 1.00 Split
Second (53688). 1.30 Home and Away:
Tom's romance with Terri goes on. A former victim of John Simpson puts Irena

in the clear. Sam is keen to impress Hayley and sets off the school fire alarm (50489), 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country (543428), 5.10 Shortland Street (6076002), 6.00 Home and Away (840441). **G.25** Anglie News (758575) 10.15 ITN News; Weather (927712). 10.45 Anglia News and Weather (489118). 3.55 Cybernet (99704039). 4.25 Box Office America (87978565) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (66)35364), 5.00 Coronation Street (73316).

CENTRAL As Cartton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (6172199). 12.30 iTN News; Weather (51118), 1.00 Echo Point 88). 5.10 Shortland Street: Serial set in an accident and emergency clinic in Auckland, New Zealand (6076002). 6.00 Home and Away (640441). 6.25 Central News and Weather (758575). 10.45 Central News and Weather (489118), 4-20 Jobfinder (7431251), 5-20

Asian Eye (2351107). HTY WALES As Cariton except: 10:15 This Morring (64160), 12:15 HTV News and Weather (3866335), 1:00 Shortland Street (53688), 1:30 Home and Away

(50489). 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country: Aison Cork continues her preparations for Christmas with more in-spirational ideas for homemade food. drink and presents. Plus practical addrink and presents. Plus practical advice, top tips and short cuts (\$434286). \$40 Primetime Diary (\$076002). \$.00 Home and Away (\$40441). \$.25 Wales Toright and Weather (758575). \$10.45 HTV News (\$9818). \$3.55 Cybernet (\$9704039). \$4.25 Box Office America (\$7978565). \$4.50 ITV Nightscreen. (66135364). 5.00 Coronation St (73316).

HTV WEST As HTV Wales except: 540 Wildlife Rescue: This edition looks at the res of red squirrels and dormice in Thettord Forest and Hampshire (6076002), 6.25 HTV West Weather (465809), 6.30 The West Tonight (998),

MERIDIAN MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 10.15 This
Morning (64:460). 12.15 Meridian News
and Weather (38:68335). 1.00 Shortland
Street (53:688). 1.30 Home and Away
(50:489). 2.00 Christmas Home in the
Country (54:34228). 5.10 Home and
Away (607:6002). 5.37 Three Minutes
Freescreen (58:3644). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (644). 6.30 Holiday Park (996). 10.45 Meridian News and Weather (48918). 3.55 Cybernet (99704039). 4.25 Box Office America: The cinematic show that reviews the top ten films in the USA and previews forthcoming rethe USA and previews or maximily re-leases, with behind-the-scenes glimpes at the latest blockbusters in production (87978565). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (66135364). 5.00 Freescreen (73316).

WESTCOUNTRY As Cariton except: 10.13 This Morning (641460), 12.15 Westcountry News (3866335), 12.27 Burningtons (6180118), 1.00 Emmerdele (53688) (6180118). 1.00 Emmerosas (33688). 6.00 Westcountry Live (38689). 10.45 Westcountry News (489118). 3.55 Cy-bernet (99704039). 4.25 Box Office America (87978565). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (66135384). 5.00 Corona-tion Street (73316).

As Cariton except: 10.15 This Morning (641460), 12.15 Calendar News and Weather (3868335), 1.00 Home and Away (58307489), 1.25 Christmas Home In the Country (5098625). 2.10 Em-merdale (86459354). 5.40 News; Weather (798441). 5.55 Celendar

(434460). **6.30** Tonight (996). **10.45** Calender News and Weather (48918). **4.20** Jobinder (2569036).

TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 12.45 North East News and Weather (3875083), 12.25 Jobink (818018), 5.55 North East Weather (563880), 6.00 North East Tonight (36809), 10.45 North East News and Weather (48918).

As Channel 4 except: 1110 Praise Album (16072151). 12.00 Judge Joe Brown (46774644). 12.30 Sesame Brown (467/4644), 12.30 Sesame Street (7205401), 1.00 Planed Plant -Rala Rwdins a Lisabath (46481170), 1.30 Boogle Doodle (83842267), 1.35 Film: The Kentuckian (16180525), 4.30 Rickl Lake (11641286), 5.00 Planed Plant (18230422), 5.30 Countdown (11632538), 5.00 Newyddion (19226002), 6.10 Heno (80863557), 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (33847371), 7.25 Plamfo (38820593) (8058357), 7.25 Plermio (3850753), 3.3510731), 7.25 Plermio (3820593), 3.00 Defydd Iwan (18236803), 8.30 Newyddion (1824844), 19.00 Brookside (95083998), 10.35 Storm Force (34412557), 11.35 Frasier (75220335), 12.08 Under the Moon (51429519), 4.00 High 5 (90490565), 4.30 Close.



WEDNESD VISION

ille Mitterrand: The amust come out

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Maskha

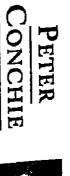
den plan rejected.

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Someoned the plan for

Denominations.

Pester power | Sent have advice | Sent at Christmas



TELEVISION REVIEW

mes (BBCZ) clearly wanted to Ken Loach, while young ominic Savage, director of "The utsiders" for Cutting Edge

gloomy cello score. However, gs as set of a Coen brothers film.

It would have worked better a two-minute Video Nation at the film would have had a fold effect; firstly there would less of it to watch, secondly it thinke ficused the director's icentration. The overall effect as if Mike Leigh had directed episode of Sunset Beach with cast of a Coen brothers film. Thile Savage was Mike Leigh ibad day—on a really bad dry, act — Alwyn was I asch on

Holy Communion to make its point. Up to that point you could not see the narrative stitching the cues and directions difficed in unobtrusively; from a television which happened to be on in the background or from the naturalistic chatter of its subjects. Loach, too, started as a documentary maker and Alwyn shares his talent for empathy and chemastography, as his previous work, The Shrine, also showed.

The scene in the pub was the funniest I've seen all week. Tom and his two tiny mates perched on a pub sofa in the afternoon watching England play Tunisia on the big screen. There they sat, pretending to be adults, telling mis-remembered jokes and watching the football. The scene rang with bell-clear dialogue and "performances" so natural that, as a perfinent saying goas

called Thomas and his mare Paddy, during last summer' World Cup. How did he do it, on wondered. How did these boy arrive pure, intact and unaffects

3.25 Children's BBC; Playdays (R) (S) (9350877), 3.45
Bananaman (R) (S) (6507606), 3.80 ChuckleVision (R)
(S) (3647002), 4.10 Get Your Own Back (S) (T)
(9785657), 4.35 The Queen's Nose (S) (T) (9923557),
8.00 Newsround (S) (T) (2560335), 8.10 Blue Peter (S)

5.35 Neighbours. Hannah is caught cheating (S) (450844)

6.00 Newsj Weather (1) (248).

6.30 Regional News. And weather (T) (828)

10

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Investigates the meringitis B vacche from Cuba which may be able to stop the disease in its tracks (S) (T) (712).

8.00 The Life of Birds. David Attenborough examines variety of ways in which birds construct their nests at protect their eggs from predators. Including breathtet scenes of serial piracy and a 3-D animated view of the processes involved in laying an egg (S) (T) (436809).

9.00 Nine o'Clook News; Regional News; Weather (T) (5557). 8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (5) (7) (857606).

9.30 [I][D][1] QED. See Docum (T) (213335). entery of the Day, below (S)

12.40 Weird Science (S) (T) (4131565). 1.06 Joins BBC News 24 (88536107). To 6am.

MATCH OF THE DAY

BBC2

BBC1

9.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (56221 (1388248), **10.05** City Ho: News; Regional News: W

10.30 [HIDIF] Now, Voyager (Irving Rapper 1942 US).

New England spinster gets a make-over and discovers true love in this schlock masterplece. See Film of the Day, below (T) (89057977).

12.25 Urgent Action (S) (T) (6:153064). 12.30 Working Lunch (24064). 1.00 Juniper Jungle (R) (S) (2:1916:18). 1.10 The Arts and Crafte Hour (S) (4645424). 2.10 Match of the Day Greate (S) (86452828). 2.40 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6365809). 2.45 Westminster (S) (T) (3152:151). 3.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6366783). 4.00 Change That (R) (S) (T) (937670). 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (S) (T) (8386567). 4.85 Esther (R) (7241083). 5.30 Today's the Day (S) (T) (977).

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Captain Ploatd is surprised to learn that the legendary Mr Spock has gone on an unauthorised mission to Romulus (R) (S) (T) (871977).

7.30 Behind Closed Doors. Visits the Old Hall community in Suffolk – a "family" of 60 men, women and children who have rejected the nine-to-five, suburban existence to grow crops and raise animals. Eek (354).

includes natural atternatives to value, injecto causifor obtaining a washboard stomach and visits a relki therapist, who heals with his hands (R) (8) (T) (2880)

9.00 Nurse. It's the winter of 1997, and our student nurses are in the last stretch of their three-year courses. Jo Banks is out with community psychiatric nurses, while John Denton and Hannah Knowles are working at schools for children with special needs (S) (T) (568793)

ad. This week the series examines puberty and as some of its effects, from acre to body hair, the of sexual maturity and, in females, the coment of breasts (S) (T) (213460).

5

News; Weather (T) (927712).

10.30 Newsnight. With Jeremy Paxman (T) (529828).

11.15 Brothers and Sia church community a ordeal (S) (104793). **listers.** More drama from the gospel as Lindsay tells the police about her

7.05 Teletubbles (S) (5431267), 7.30 Yogl's Treasure Hunt (R) (8363847), 7.55 To Me... to You (R) (S) (T) (1379441), 8.20 Robinson Sucroe (R) (S) (T) (4274915), 8.45 Juniper Jungle (R) (S) (3560977), 8.55 Tales of the Toolh Fairles (R) (8202064), 9.00 King Greenfingers (R) (S) (4734925), 9.05 The Phil Silvers Show (R) (7208793), 9.30 The Great Romances of the Twentleth (7208793), 9.30 The Great Romances (R) (S) (50064).

6.45 Silders. The Silders encounter a world in which adults are used as guinea-pigs for organ donation (S) (T) (187335).

8.00 %

8.30 Home Front. A couple who are holding their wedding reception in an ugly, concrete Sixtles village hall call the team in to give the place a facelift (S) (T) (1915).

Despatch Box (S) (31213). 12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Arts – Late: An A to Z of English (82403). 1.00 Television to Call Our Own (15836). 1.30 Waiting Their Turn (T) (53584). 2.00 Belief Season: in Search of the Dead (85565). 4.00 Languages: Deutsch Plus II (T) (83107). 5.00 Business and Training: Professional Update: Managing a Crisis (3692132). 5.45 Open University: Projecting Visions (6751364). To 6:10am.

6.30 Lc

7.00 E

7.30 OION3 The Big Match: Uefa Champions'
League Live - Manchester United vs Bayern
Munich. Bob Wilson presents this vital match from the
end of the group stegs, live from Old Trafford. See
Match of the Day, below (T) (82417809).

Coronation Street. Ashley is disturbed by the sinister contents of Zoe's cliary (T) (935731).

10.45 London Tonight (T) (489118).

10,66 36 Cilve James on TV. Cilve James has a laugh at the expense of consumer and holiday shows, aided and abetted by guest Jeremy Clarkson (S) (947967).
25 The Big Match: Uefa Champions' League Highlights. Highlights from Penathinalkos vs Arsenal and Manchester United vs Bayern Munich (607267).

Tilly The Haunted (Robert Mandel 1981 US). Relatively restrained ghost story, allegedly based on a true case of a Pennsylvanian family bugged by poltergeists. Sally Kirkland stars (S) (T) (377107).

Champions' League Replayed. Arsenal (191836). To 3.55am.

I**TV** (1490557)

hildren's ITV: Wizadora (R) (8199267). 3.30 The low Nords (S) (327/828). 3.45 The Animal Shelf (S) (289083). 4.00 Rupert (R) (S) (9370996). 4.25 The ottentrolls (S) (T) (1575557). 4.40 Mad for it (S) nocara.

5,10 Hc me and Away (S) (T) (6076002).

5.40 Ne ws; Weather (T) (419422).

mmerdale. More from endlessly traumatised orkshire tolk. Chris and Zoe receive some shocking two (S) (T) (2606).

11.30 The Comedy Lab. "New comic talent" (74644).

FILM OF THE DAY

IV Carlton

Trisha (S) (T) (2121248), **10.15** This Morning (T) (52001880), **12.20** Your Shout (6172199), **12.30** News: Weather (T) (5118), **1.00** London Today (T) (53688), **1.30** Christmas Home in the Country (7405422), **2.10** Home and Away (S) (T) (86459354), **2.40** Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (4890118), **3.10** ITN News Headlines (T) (1302354).

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6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (T) (644).

London Bridge. Capital soap, is this the end for Jarvis and Jyoti? (S) (986).

8.30 The Real Hollday Show. A boy takes his first hollday with his dad since his parents split up. And two men who run a strippers' agency go to Tunisia (T) (6083).

10,00 Rising Damp. Fligsby's cat, Vienna, to the fore, in another of these lovely old sitcom repeats (F)

10.30 Bob and Margaret. Animated series about a married couple. Bob and Margaret have been invited to Nell and Moira's for dinner – or so they think (S) (84016).

11.00 Whose Line is it Anyway? Another round of improv filmed in front of an American audience. Colin Mochrie, Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops and Brad Sherwood are this week's great pretenders (5) (T) (8422).

3,30

6.00 Late Lunch with Mei and Sue. Paul Whitehouse, Charlie Higson and Jack Davenport meet the erchly ironic due (27151).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather. Including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (362199).

8.00 Brookside. Mike, Megan and Jacqui learn the truth about Ron and Antheas affair. Benny offers Joey a deal in exchange for his silence (S) (T) (4248). 7.55 Artranspennine. Focuses on Joseph Bartscherer's photographs of life in Manchester (T) (825712).

8. 00

9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. The last episode of the newsroom sitcom. As Sally prepares for married bilss. Dave and Henry are at daggers drawn (3977).

9.30 is it Legal? Solicitors zzzitcom. The team make a horrifying discovery as they read through some box files from 1979 (S) (T) (39996).

(T) (91248).

12.00 Under the Moon. Featuring, at **2.35**, Football Italia, **4.00** High Five, **4.30** Kabaddi, and, at **5.00**, Transworld Sport (5024364). To 5.55am.

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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 9 December 1998

9.30 **6.00 Sesame Street** (27809). **7.00** The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (97083). **9.00** Home Movies (34593).

Pality Encore (Harold French, Pat Jackson, Anthony Pelissier 1951 UK). Superior dramatisation of three Somerset Maugham short stories, introduced by the great man himself. Nigel Patrick, Roland Culver, Kay Walsh and countless others do the honours (94597118).

(A) (S) (T) (63189/5). 7.30 Milkshakel (S) (29579/5). 7.35 Wilmzle's House (R) (S) (65291/8). 8.30 Havakazoo (R) (S) (7923170). 8.30 Dappledown Farm (792244)). 9.00 Housebusters (R) (S) (T) (3556880). 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (R) (4498538). 9.30 The Oprah Wintrey Show (8654267). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (8645539). 11.10 Leeza (R) (S) (8806199). 12.00 5 News at Noon (7933557). 12.30 Family Affairs (R) (2554267). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (6317286). 1.30 Sons and Daughters (2553538). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (183418). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (2581793).

11.10 Prairie Album (3013996). **11.30** Powerhouse (T) (7170). **12.00** Sesame Street (23847). **12.30** I Dream of Jeannie (T) (42460). **1.00** Judge Joe Brown (T) (90170). **1.30** Australia Wild (97564286).

Is sitting Pretty (Walter Lang 1948 US). The lightly caustic Robert Young got to show off his comic touch in this enjoyable tosh about an efficiency expert who gets a job nannying three troublesome brats. With Clifton Webb and Maureen O'Hara (T) (87216002).

Collectors' Lot (T) (642), 4.00 Fifteen to One (T) (809), 4.30 Countdown (T) (9917896), 4.55 Ficki Lake (S) (T) (7236151), 5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (373). Extremely belated movie version of the TV series which ran from 1959-51 (although it was never screened over here) and starred Craig Stevens as the Los Angeles private eye with the upmarket clients and a penchant for jazz nightclubs. In 1959 the milleu must have seemed daring and modern. Here it seems nostalgic, as Peter Strauss takes over the lead role, but Henry Mancini's original score still works its magic (S) (T) (7949880).

5.20 The Roseanne Show (9423712).

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6.00 100 Per Cent. Remorseless game show (S) (2769557). 6.30 Family Affairs, Jack is forced to play the grief-stricken husband when the doctor arrives. Angus suspects Elsa's death was no accident (5) (T) (2750809).

7.00 5 News including First on Five. Kirsty Young ambies off with the day's top stories (5) (T) (1805606)

7.30 The Pepsi Chart. Dr Fox presents the latest sounds from London's Sound Republic, including a rundown of the top 20 hits (S) (2749793).

1311/11 When the Cradte Falls (Paul Schneider 1997 US). Linda Gray is about the only recognisable name in this made-for-TV film which – a rarity this for the genre – isn't based on a real-life case. When a baby is kidnepped, his parents become prime suspects (T) (47499204).

9.40 MITTAL The Great American Sex Scandal (Michael A Schultz 1986 US). No, not that sex scandal, but some long-forgotten real-life embezziement case. The film itself concentrates on the 12 jurons involved, and stars Lynn Redgrave (S) (T) (9248422).

11.30 Melinda's Big Night In. La Messenger's guests are Steven Pinder (aka Max Farnham from *Brookside*) and TV presenters Francine Lewis and Richard Blackwood. Yes, we're talking the E-list (S) (1440996). 12.10 Compromising Situations (3366300), 12.45 ice Hockey – NHL '98 Buffelo Sabres vs St Louis Blues (12307774), 4.40 Club Class (81820871), 5.05 Move On Up (19590942), 5.30 100 Per Cent (7498478). To 6am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILDERT



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Got the picture?

MANCHESTER UNITED VS BAYERN MUNICH (730pm ITV) In purely psycho-managerial terms, Alex Ferguson (right) has met his match in Bayern Munich's Otto Hitzfeld, who defly found Fergle's weak spot last weekend when he told newspapers: "The last time United were too nervous. Ferguson wanted it too much." That "last time" was two years ago when Hitzfeld was in charge of Borussin Dortmund, beating United in the Champions' League semi-final. United are better equipped to go through this time, however, especially with the Cole-Yorke spearhead generating goals galore. However, the moral of the

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

remember the news stories from last week – of 10-year-old Joella Holliday (right), the little girl who won her legal case to get the sex changed on her birth certificate. Joella was born Joel – a boy, or so everybody assumed, since her sex wasn't very clear. In fact, Joella was what is termed "intersex", an increasingly common condition (prime suspect; pollutants in the environment) where babies are born with indeterminate genitalia. Joella was also born with other health problems, and tonight's flim follows this touching little girl as she faces yet more surgery to facilitate the onset of puberty.

NOW, VOYAGER (10.30am BBC2, right) It's dreadful, of course, which is what makes this legendary 1942 Bette Davis tear-jerker such a kitsch classic. Davis plays the dowdy, repressed New Englander turned into a confidant young woman by psychiatrist Claude Rains. Her eyebrows plucked and dress-sense cured, Davis is dispatched on a cruise to Rio, where she falls hopelessly in love with the married Paul Henreid (and utters the immortal line, "Oh, Jerry, don't let's ask for the moon – we have the stars"). The genius sak for the right was the novelist Olive Higgins Prout, who also gave us that other camp masterpiece, Stella Dallas.

